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FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT EDITION

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 23
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REMEMBER YOUR VALENTINE

Woe betide you if you've forgotten... but Valentine's Day is just a matter of hours away. Restaurants have reported the traditional spike in midweek bookings – and are bracing themselves for a hectic weekend, as couples celebrate the traditional romantic date in the calendar. Meanwhile florists say trade is blooming in what is one of their busiest days of the year.

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

FAVERSHAM'S Citizens Advice Bureau could be forced to close under swingeing council budget cuts to be discussed at a meeting tonight.

Members of the council's executive will consider a recommendation to reduce the bureau's funding by a massive 25 per cent over the next two years, forcing the service to close its branch in either Faversham, Sittingbourne or Sheerness.

A CAB spokesman said: "We appreciate Swale council is in a very difficult position financially and that economies have to be made.

"However, CAB's finances have always been very finely balanced and if the budget is cut there will be considerable ramifications.

"With anything like a 25 per cent cut in the budget, we will need to assess whether we can afford premises in Faversham, Sittingbourne and Sheppey. It would be the only way we could make sufficient savings to maintain a viable service.

"It would, however, be very hard on the area whose CAB we withdrew."

The cuts, which will see the CAB's budget slashed from £148,961 to £123,430 over the next two years, could also mean job losses and fewer trained staff to answer the increasing number of calls dealt with by the service.

The CAB predicts that instead of the current 13,285 calls dealt with per year, the standard set in the council's own service level agreement, it will only be able to cope with 11,335.

Cllr John Wright, executive member and portfolio holder for community safety and regeneration said: "When considering where to reduce funding we take into consideration the alternatives available to people, and there are other options such as national help lines for debt, counselling services

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Road works gridlock busy town centre

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

A TRAFFIC snarl-up left Faversham gridlocked on Friday night – and the problems didn't end there.

A string of road works combined to leave many commuters struggling to get home as diversions, road closures and an increase in traffic on narrow roads caused chaos.

Gas works closed Athelstan Road and Briton Road, forcing motorists down Preston Street which quickly became snarled with traffic.

Now commuters have criticised what they see as a lack of joined-up thinking which left the town with several major roads shut on the same night.

Yourswale reader Glenn James was caught in the confusion on his way home from work on Friday. At about 7.30pm, he was surprised to find the town had quickly become snarled with commuters trying to work their way through the maze of closures and diversions.

He said: "It was absolutely gridlocked, with cars coming both ways down Preston Street and cars parked on both sides."

Ridiculous

Finding Briton Road closed and Preston Street blocked, Mr James, who lives in Saxon Street, drove down Newton Road to Quay Lane, which he discovered had also been shut off.

He said: "Essentially I found I had no way of getting back to my house."

"There were cars everywhere. It was very unlike Faversham. There can't have been much foresight in planning these road works, it was ridiculous."

Eventually, like many other drivers on Friday, Mr James was forced to make an illegal right turn into Stone Street from Preston Street, as there was simply no other way of getting through town.

The works, which closed Briton Road, were being carried out by Mid Kent Water, while Quay Lane was



CONGESTION: An end to roadworks should prevent more scenes of traffic chaos

the responsibility of Kent County Council's highways department.

A KCC spokesman said: "The works in Quay Lane were high-friction resurfacing works to improve the safety of the carriageway and these works have now been completed."

"Residents in the affected areas were given advance notice of both works and they were also publicised." Meanwhile, major gas works are to blame for the closure of Athelstan Road, but these are due to end today.

The works, commissioned by Southern Gas Networks, have been in place since November last year, and have also seen parts of Athelstan Road coned off, creating chicanes and bottlenecks.

A spokesman for Southern Gas Network said: "The new pipes have a minimum lifespan of 80 years, so it's very unlikely we'll have to dig up the road again in the near future."

Council: Savings had to come some how

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
and free internet advice.

"The proposed cut does not include the extra £17,000 given by Swale council this year and next for the Citizen's Advice Bureau to provide independent housing advice, which reduces the overall cut to £3,000. The council has also offered CAB space in Swale House to help defray costs."

The charity's bosses have also criticised what they see as a cut that will adversely affect some of Swale's most vulnerable groups: "The impact of the cuts will be felt disproportionately by the most vulnerable in the borough."

"Some 23 per cent of clients come from areas with the highest deprivation in Swale. Disabled and long term sick people account for 34 per cent of CAB's clients, while over 65s make up 10 per cent. At a time when Swale has increasing levels of deprivation this would be a considerable blow."

The service also claims the cuts will affect their ability to train more staff. It currently costs £3,800 to train an advisor, and the bureau provides volunteer work for 70 to 80 people a year.

In the report, to be discussed tonight, Swale House admits that "grant reductions could have a disproportionate affect on deprived communities", and a negative effect on council priorities.

Mr Wright said: "Following the poor funding settlement from the government for local authorities, and additional demands such as bus pass entitlement, which cost this council an extra £200,000 this financial year, we have to make savings at the same time as targeting resources at the council's priorities of regenerating Swale, education, learning and skills."

yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabbies hope CCTV will stop violence

SWALE taxis might be fitted with CCTV if a suitable funding scheme can be found.

Firms hope small CCTV cameras fitted inside cabs will improve driver safety and dissuade passengers from assaulting cabbies, or running off without paying.

But suitable systems are expensive, and firms need to find a way of paying for the technology.

At a recent meeting, bosses revealed they were looking into sponsorship from local firms who could pay to have their logo printed on the camera, in view of passengers.

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Fighting obesity is a primary concern

MP calls for more PE at junior school

BY GARETH ARNOLD

A LACK of physical education at primary school is to blame for the childhood obesity epidemic according to Faversham MP Hugh Robertson.

And Swale council says it is leading the charge to fight the growing problem.

The Shadow Sport and Olympics Minister has called for at least three PE sessions a week in primary schools, and says more PE teachers should be trained to help youngsters fight flab.

Mr Robertson said: "The evidence from other countries, such as Australia and Canada, suggests the primary school years are crucial in terms of sport and exercise. If children pick up the exercise habit by the age of 11, it stays with them for the rest of their lives."

"However, in this country, we have concentrated provision on the secondary school years

Picture: REX



FAT KIDS: MP Hugh Robertson, inset, wants to see more physical education in primary schools to help tackle obesity

– by which time it is often too late. We need to restore physical education to the centre of the primary school syllabus, ideally with three sessions each week, and both train more PE teachers and increase the amount of PE training in ordinary teacher training to combat Britain's childhood obesity crisis."

Last year, the British Medical Association warned that without action, obese children would increasingly develop adult diseases such as type 2 diabetes, cancer and bone problems.

According to a report from the BMA, in the UK about one million children under 16 are obese. If trends continue, it is estimated at least one fifth of boys and a third of girls will be obese by 2020, the BMA's board of science warned.

Swale council provides extracurricular programmes aimed at getting youngsters involved in sport such as the Sports Bus Club.

This provides transport for children from designated schools to the local sports centre, where they spend 45 minutes doing fitness training followed by a 45-minute swimming session.

Organisers estimate 68 percent of children taking part had never visited a sports or leisure centre before participating in the scheme.

Other programmes running in the borough include MEND, a course aimed at changing children's lifestyles to include healthy eating and exercise, and Skip 2B Fit, a skipping based class taught in schools combining exercise, maths and nutrition.

Police target young drinkers

UNDERAGE drinkers are being targeted by police throughout the half term break.

Teams of officers will be seizing alcohol from minors across Swale from this Friday, February 15, in a bid to curb anti-social behaviour.

Police will also trial the 'Bottlewatch' scheme, where a tamper proof label with a special code is stuck onto bottles of lager and wine. When the alcohol is seized by officers it can then be traced back to where it was bought.

Licensing officer Barbara Murray said: "We're determined to clamp down on underage drinking as there is a strong link between this and anti-social behaviour, including criminal damage."

"This is why we are joining forces with our partners to tackle the problem."

"I would like to thank the licensed premises that have assisted us in setting up the 'Bottlewatch' scheme."

"By coming together, we can raise awareness of the impact alcohol has not only on their own lives but on the community as a whole."

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KCC's Keith Ferrin on a bus scheme heading to Swale.

Scouts to go green with tree planting

GREEN-fingered Scouts from across Swale will plant more than 1,000 trees at Church Marshes Country Park this weekend.

The eager youngsters' mass planting of oak, ash and birch trees will help create a new habitat for wildlife at the park, attracting all manner of birds and bugs.

Chris Foster of the Scouts Association said: "We are really looking forward to planting the trees at Church Marshes to help mark the movement's centenary and help make a real difference to our environment."

"Scouts for Trees is vital in enabling Scouts in this country to have the chance to enjoy the great outdoors."

"This was a crucial part of Scouting 100 years ago and it will continue to be so as it remains second nature to our members."

The day's planting event is funded by The Veolia Environmental Trust, which awarded the Woodland Trust and Groundwork Kent and Medway a £200,000 grant through the Landfill Communities Fund for 40 planting events across the UK.

Strict rules set in place for cabbies with convictions

A MOVE to ban Faversham cabbies convicted of a violent offence from ever driving a taxi again has been defeated.

At a recent meeting of the Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicles committee, some members decided to go against the government guidelines, which state that cabbies convicted of a violent offence such as assault have to wait three years before being considered for a new licence.

Instead members pushed for a permanent ban on drivers convicted of assault or similar violent crimes.

But the move was overruled and the council has decided to stick to the standard guidelines.

Taxi drivers also challenged the three-year wait for a licence currently in place for drivers convicted of a drink driving offence.

Currently drivers have to wait three years from the day they get

their licence back following a drink driving conviction before they can be considered for a taxi application.

Committee members passed on a report containing complaints from drivers that this period was too long, and was stopping otherwise capable cabbies from taking the wheel.

But committee members decided to stick to the government guidelines, and Swale council refused the request.

Swale council's head of environment and amenities, Brian Planner, said: "The report drew the councillors' attention to the concern from some drivers that three years is too long."

"Having considered the issue, councillors decided that three years after the reinstatement of a drivers licence should elapse before a taxi licence is re-issued, as recommended in the Department for Transport guidance."

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Troops get set for Helmand assignment

AROUND 550 soldiers from Howe Barracks are being sent to Afghanistan next month, Defence Secretary Des Browne has confirmed.

The troops from the 5th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland – The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders – will deploy to the volatile Helmand Province from the end of March until October as part of 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Troops are currently on pre-deployment training on Salisbury Plain, which will be followed by a short period of leave.

The 5th Battalion has a long and illustrious history and earned its nickname, The Thin Red Line, in 1854 at the Battle of Balaclava during the Crimean War, when the 93rd Highland Regiment (clad in red tunics) repelled a Russian cavalry charge.

Taxi rank to ease city centre visitor queues

A NEW taxi rank has been proposed for Rose Lane in Canterbury.

The plan is being considered by council officers who have completed a consultation with traders in the city centre street.

The extra rank will cater for the increased number of visitors over the last year, reducing pressure at peak times when there are often queues.

A definite proposal will be presented to the council in the next few weeks.

Get active and help others less fortunate

CHILDREN in developing countries stand to benefit from Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme as the voucher-based equipment programme gets a new twist.

This year Canterbury children can donate their vouchers to benefit less fortunate schools of their choice – in addition to any local school, Scout or Guide group participating in the scheme.

Sports packages include items such as footballs, basketballs and frisbees.

Networkers on the lookout for new ladies

WOMEN on Top is looking for representatives to run a Canterbury franchise of the all-female networking business group.

Joint founder Linda Westall said: "This is an exciting opportunity for businesswomen throughout Canterbury and will not only allow them to have a thriving business but will also enable them to meet and work with dynamic and like-minded businesswomen."

To talk about the franchise contact Linda Westall or Angela Ward on 0845 0344 888.

Students get hands-on crime-busting lesson...

FROM moving patients to learning about the structure of a criminal investigation, students got some hands-on advice from police and medical staff at Christ Church University last week.

The unique programme, the only one of its kind in the country, saw schoolchildren from across Kent taking part in practical classes designed to provide a taste of police and hospital work.

Lecturer in crime and teaching studies Roy Murphy, a former CID officer who led one of the classes, said: "It's not a recruitment drive; it's an awareness exercise, to let students know about these jobs and to see if it would suit them."

"It's an overview of the procedures we would follow in any criminal investigation. Obviously you don't learn to be a detective in three sessions, but it's possible to learn about the general areas covered."

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

"The reaction is mixed. Some have been asking some very perceptive questions about a very high profile criminal investigation in the news at the moment."

As well as policing, students from several schools got to take practical classes in the hospital ward at Christ Church.

There they learnt some basic aspects of patient care, including moving people, carrying out blood pressure tests and performing CPR.

And the pupils get another benefit from the hands-on experience. Each one who completes the course gets ten extra points to use for their UCAS application.

Christ Church University's director of regional academic development Elizabeth Houlth is overseeing the project.

She said: "The aim is to improve prospects for progression into higher education and beyond into a profession."

"We enjoy a reputation for excellence in our provision of programmes for existing, and aspiring professionals."

The three-day course, a pilot scheme soon to be rolled out across the rest of the UK, involved more than 100 Kent pupils who received introductory training in one of the public services, either policing, nursing or teaching.

The pupils take classes in all three professions, involving both practical and written work.

As well as getting taught by professionals in each field, the course provides a taste of life at university, and the teaching methods students are likely to encounter.

The scheme, called Gateways to the Professions, is part of a Government drive to encourage more young people to enter these professions.

The pilot project is being led by Canterbury Christ Church University, which is the main training provider for public services in the South East.



...AND A CPR CLASS TOO

PUPILS got hands on last week at an innovative pilot scheme aimed at giving school leavers a taste of the service professions – and we were there with our camera crew to capture it.

Our video clip, watchable now on www.yourkenttv.co.uk, shows what students got up to at Christ Church University.

More than 100 students were given access to the university's extensive training resources; Christ Church is the main provider of public service training in the South East, providing the majority of the region's nurses, teachers, social workers and other professionals.

These included a resuscitation dummy, hooked up to a computer allowing teachers to monitor pupils' success in reviving the imaginary patient, allowing them to hone their CPR technique.

The trainees learnt also learnt other simple medical procedures such as taking blood pressure and how to move patients safely.

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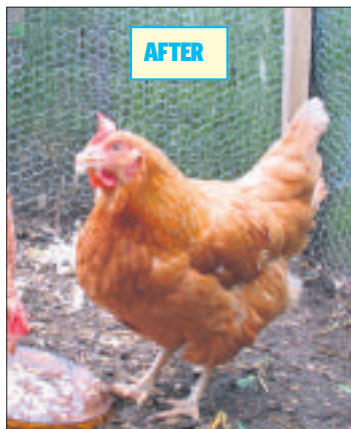
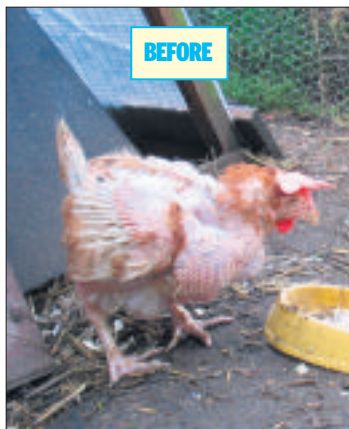
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FEATHERED FRIENDS: The Battery Hen Welfare Trust rehomes intensively reared chickens – taking them from how they look on the left – to how they appear on the right in just a matter of weeks.

Good eggs get taste for free range

FREE-range chicken is flying off the shelves at local branches of supermarket giant Tesco following the recent high-profile campaigns by TV chefs Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Jamie Oliver.

And such has been the demand for birds not battery-farmed, shoppers at stores in Canterbury, Whitstable and Faversham found themselves struggling with their conscience last week.

Demand had been so high, stocks of free-range chickens had completely sold out.

Tesco confirmed the rush, saying it was enjoying a 70 per cent increase in sales on last year – and that it was doubling its order for free-range chickens to meet demand.

Shopper Phil Read from Whitstable explained: "I couldn't believe it. I have made a point of looking for free-range chickens since realising the conditions the chickens were raised in – but when I tried to buy one there were not any there."

"I know it's probably a good thing as the demand is there, but if people then have to end up with a battery-farmed bird, it rather defeats the principle."

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

The situation was exacerbated by the supermarket chain currently running a promotional offer on battery farmed chickens which means customers can pay as little as £1.99 for a whole bird – proving the battle is far from over yet for our feathered friends.

It says the offer is for the benefit of customers on a budget, as chicken sales in general have risen over the last few weeks.

Despite the possibly short-term effect, and the fact the supermarket says sales of intensively raised birds have not dropped because of the TV programmes, animal welfare groups are upbeat about the news.

Diana Millard, the Kent representative of the Battery Hen Welfare Trust, which rehouses birds after their peak egg-laying days are over, said: "These programmes have been wonderful in raising the issue of hen welfare. Hopefully one day my role will become redundant."

Tesco spokesman Jonathan Church said: "We have been working hard for a while to increase the amount of higher welfare chicken we sell and the recent debate over chickens in the media has helped raise awareness of the choice available to customers."

Go digging up the past on our website

MEMBERS of Canterbury Archaeological Trust got stuck in recently on a dig of an historic 91-hectare site.

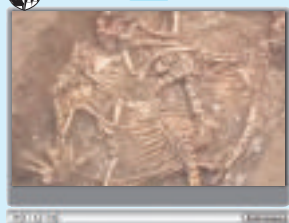
They set about the fields of Brooksend in Thanet – renowned for revealing a fascinating glimpse from history – and made some stunning discoveries.

Led by Adrian Gollop, the architect leading the hunt, log-on to our free, broadband TV site – www.yourkenttv.co.uk to see for yourself what they have unearthed. Your guide is reporter Tom Betts as he goes in pursuit of the past.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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LOCAL TV ONLINE



yourswale NEWS IN BRIEF

No bail for man facing a string of driving offences

AN ALLEGED rampage in a stolen car which ended in a flower bed in Herne Bay has led to a Margate man being charged with a variety of driving offences.

Jay John Stark, 26, of Sweyn Road, Cliftonville, Margate, was charged with aggravated vehicle taking, dangerous driving and driving without insurance.

Stark was arrested at Herne Bay railway station, and appeared at Canterbury magistrates' court where his application for bail was rejected and he was remanded in custody.

The charges relate to a string of accidents through Thanet and Herne Bay on January 27. A Suzuki car was stolen from an address in Clifton Road, Margate, at 2.30pm, and a short while later was involved in a collision in Ramsgate Road involving a car carrying two women and two children.

That afternoon, two more accidents involving the car were reported in Thanet, and the Suzuki finally crashed in Herne Bay.

Stark is expected to appear again at Canterbury magistrates' court on March 3.

Howletts offers kids for a quid half term discount

HOWLETTS Wild Animal Park is offering a special £1 for children ticket for half term.

The offer for the Bekebourne park applies to one child, aged 4-16, when accompanied by one full paying adult.

Discounted entry applies from February 15 through to 25.

Children under four go free.

The same special offer is also available at its sister park at Port Lympne.

It comes off the back of the phenomenal success the park has enjoyed through publicity generated by BBC show Roar.

Memorial is set in stone at World Heritage Site

A SPECIALLY commissioned stone memorial will be unveiled at Christ Church University.

Christ Church University's main campus sits on the outer precinct of St Augustine's Abbey, England's oldest monastery, part of the Canterbury World Heritage Site.

A stone relief commemorating this fact has been created by local stone carver Gary Newton. The carving depicts a monk working in the monastery gardens which contained a vinery, bake house, brew house, orchards, bee hives and allotments.

The unveiling will be conducted by Dr Paul Dalton on Wednesday, February 13.

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Be part of the official *Mum's Army* at Bluewater and help Mums get the presents they deserve this Mother's Day.

Finding the right gift for Mother's Day can be a challenge. In fact, according to our research, it is more difficult to find the right gift for Mother's Day than it is for Christmas or Mum's Birthday! All this can mean that poor old Mum gets the same thing year after year.

Here at Bluewater we want all Mums to get the perfect present and all kids to feel that they have got the best gift advice. Our research also showed us that most people would rather get advice on what to buy their Mum from another Mum – as well as any other nuggets of wisdom. It was this that inspired us to create the *Mum's Army*.

WE NEED YOU

Now we are appealing for your help. If you are a Mum, we would love to make you one of our 'new recruits'. All we need is for you to let us know what your ideal Mother's Day gift would be. We will then use this information to pass onto shoppers to help them make the best choice this Mother's Day.

We would like to assemble the *Mum's Army* for a photoshoot at Bluewater on the 26th February and would love for you to come down and be part of the fun. You will be issued with a *Mum's Army* T-shirt and given a Mum's Army battalion: Yummy Mummy, Modern Mama, Mother Hen or Earth Mother!

As a thank you, all Mums who submit a suggestion and come down to Bluewater on the morning of the 26th February will receive a £25 voucher to buy their ideal Mother's Day gift, courtesy of Bluewater.*

*One hundred Mums will be selected to take part in the *Mums Army*. Only these 100 Mums will be eligible for the free gift.



SIGN UP NOW!

We want Mums to sign up by 20 February, either by calling the Mum's hotline on 020 7908 6597 or emailing mumsarmy@lexispr.com, to become one of Bluewater's official *Mum's Army* recruits.

Please give us your name, address, contact number and ideal Mother's Day gift. We will be in touch regarding the photoshoot on Tuesday 26 February.

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Address:

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Tel: Mobile:

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Women participating in the Mum's Army must be genuine mothers. Gifts will not be honoured if you are not a mother. 2. Mothers must attend the photoshoot on the 26th February 2008 in order to qualify for the free gift. 3. Mothers must adhere to the rules of the Mum's Army as outlined on the day. Failure to do so will result in participants being disqualified from the event. 4. All competitors must complete a non disclosure form prior to entering the Mum's Army. 5. Gifts have no cash alternative. 6. All entrants must be over the age of 18. 7. The Mum's Army will assemble on 26th February at Bluewater. Please note the T&C's relate to the competition only and normal Bluewater T&C's also apply.



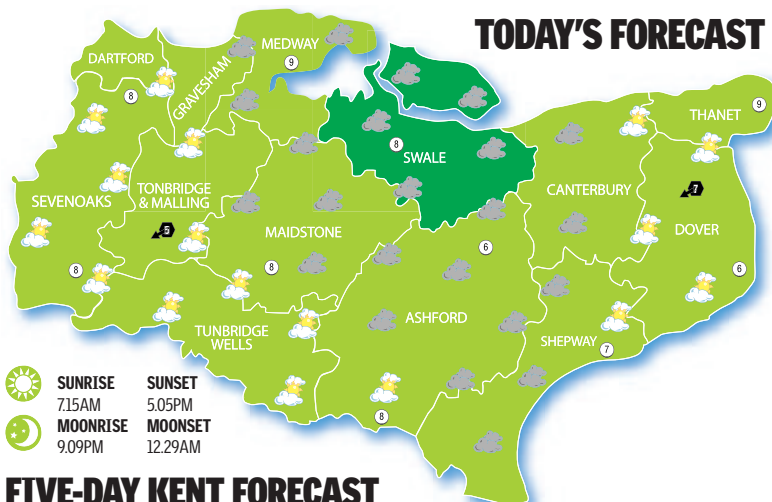
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FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	8°C	7°C	7°C	6°C	6°C	Gravesend	9°C	7°C	6°C	6°C	9°C
Canterbury	7°C	7°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	Maidstone	9°C	7°C	5°C	6°C	9°C
Chatham	7°C	6°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	Ramsgate	7°C	7°C	6°C	5°C	7°C
Dartford	9°C	7°C	6°C	6°C	9°C	Rochester	7°C	6°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Dover	8°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	8°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	6°C
Faversham	7°C	6°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	7°C	6°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Folkestone	8°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	Tonbridge	9°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	8°C
Gillingham	7°C	6°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	Tun Wells	9°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	8°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:58pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:47pm	5.2m
Dover	Saturday	3:07pm	6.1m
	Sunday	4:04pm	5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	3:09pm	7.2m
	Sunday	4:05pm	6.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:37pm	4.7m
	Sunday	4:34pm	4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:47pm	5.3m
	Sunday	5:36pm	5.0m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:41pm	4.9m
	Sunday	5:31pm	4.6m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	13°C	Madrid	12°C
Athens	9°C	New York	6°C
Barcelona	12°C	Paris	10°C
Beijing	-3°C	Rome	10°C
Bombay	27°C	Sydney	24°C
Cape Town	21°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	8°C	Tokyo	9°C
Gibraltar	15°C	Vancouver	9°C
Hong Kong	9°C	Warsaw	2°C
Las Palmas	20°C	Wellington	23°C

Scouts digging for victory with mass tree planting plan

GREEN-fingered Scouts from across Swale will plant more than 1,000 trees at Church Marshes Country Park this weekend.

The eager youngsters' mass planting of oak, ash and birch trees will help create a new habitat for wildlife at the park, attracting all manner of birds and bugs.

Chris Foster of the Scouts Association said: "We are really looking forward to planting the trees at Church Marshes to help mark the movement's centenary and help make a real difference to our local environment."

"Scouts for Trees" is vital in enabling youngsters in this country to have the chance to enjoy the great outdoors.

"This was a crucial part of scouting 100 years ago and it will continue to be so as it remains second nature to our members."

The day's planting event is being funded by the Veolia Environmental Trust, which awarded the Woodland Trust, and Groundwork Kent and Medway, a £200,000 grant through the Landfill Communities Fund for 40 planting events across the UK.

Executive director of the VET Margaret Cobbold said: "The trust is proud to be supporting such an important and special project."

"It is an excellent example of how the fund can help young volunteers create a greener Britain."

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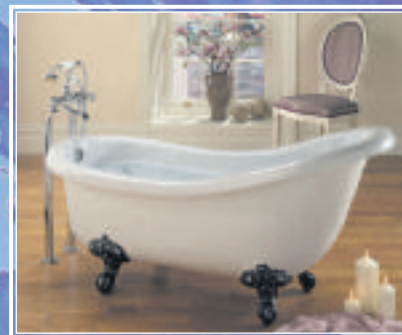
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QUESTION & ANSWER

NICK BIDDISS



Q How do you think the policeman's role has changed since the late 60s when you were on the beat?

A When I joined Panda cars were just coming and policemen were more visible on the streets. For instance you would have to do point duty at junctions, which is now done electronically.

Communications have improved, but before you were in more contact with the people. Although the technology has improved it has made the police more remote from the public. Society is more violent and there is less respect for the police.

Also if an officer was attacked we could rely on the courts to send the attacker to prison. That doesn't happen any more.

Q What do you think of the advent of the Police Community Support Officer, who only has limited powers under the law.

A If you have a police force it should be properly trained, manned and equipped. There shouldn't be any cheaper half-way houses. The trouble is some senior officers who believe policemen should become social workers.

Other people are qualified to fulfill that role. A policeman's job is to keep the streets safe.

Q What do you think about the switch to community sentencing in many cases and some life terms being cut to around ten years?

A I think the court system has gone soft. There is now no respect for the law in some quarters. If a copper was killed on duty you

knew the killer would get life. These days they can be let out after a short period. In such a case life must mean life – no half measures.

Q Is life on the street more dangerous for a policeman now?

A It is because criminals don't seem to be worried about committing violent crime. You also get more women committing crime. It was very rare that you would arrest a woman for any sort of street crime.

Q How much have drugs and drink fuelled crime?

A Much of the violent crime in our streets is related to drink or drugs. You only have to look at town centres on a weekend to see that. There has always been an element in society who wanted to drink and then have a fight, but it is now more widespread.

Fortunately in Kent we don't have so much of the drug-related violence, but life for the officer on the street will get tougher unless the courts back the police with custodial sentences.

Q Do you think police have had a raw deal from the government in the recent wage negotiations?

A I felt so strongly about the government breaking their word and eroding the conditions of police service that I took part in the Whitehall march two weeks ago.

The government entered a covenant 30 years ago which governments of both colours

have honoured until now. We are not talking about big bucks here. Most local authorities had actually budgeted for it. The government must be shamed into keeping its word.

I believe services like the police, ambulance and fire brigade should be able to negotiate with the government through an independent body. Once that body rules its ruling should be binding on both sides.

Q Do you think high profile criminals like Kenneth Noye, the murderer you brought to trial, attract too much hero worship?

A Decent people don't feel valued. There is a culture which says the criminal is the hero and that is fuelling a lack of respect for law and order. Noye is a cold-blooded killer who did his best to avoid justice. He had no compunction about plunging a knife into a young man (Stephen Cameron) who was on a Sunday trip out with his girlfriend. He had no compunction about killing a police officer either.

Q Do you keep in touch with Stephen Cameron's family?

A We still talk.

Q Because you were retired by the time Noye came to trial did you feel marginalised?

A Even though I gave evidence at the trial I wasn't involved in any press conferences. It was as if I didn't exist.

Q & A

Former Detective Superintendent Nick Biddiss – who put several high-profile villains behind bars, including gangster and M25 road-rage killer Kenneth Noye – spoke to **Ian Read** about his fears for the police force.



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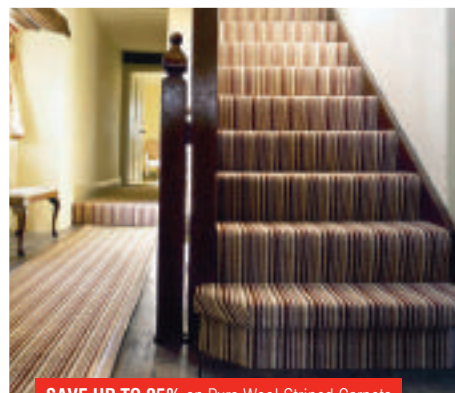
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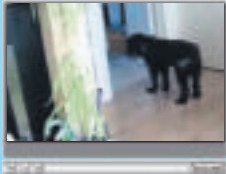
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Handball may not be as popular as football or cricket but it's a growing sport. Meet the Ashford Tanners Handball team.



Scamp the dog had a tumour that weight 6lbs. Owner Hazel Stewart talks about his miracle survival.



Children at Dickens World, celebrated the 197th birthday of Kent's favourite literary genius, Charles Dickens.



Dover teacher appointed manager of MCC cricket tour of Kenya Stephen Salisbury, talks to reporter, Marjike Cox.



Campaigner Andrew Parr spoke to Simon Robinson about the latest ASW steelworkers' pensions dispute.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Join the best party of all

BY NICK AMES

MORE than 15,000 free tickets to top visitor attractions across the county offer a Big Day Out for Kent residents on Saturday, March 29.

Castles, historic houses, steam railways and all other leisure destinations will showcase the range of entertainment now available.

Among those taking part are Godinton House and Gardens, near Ashford, The Canterbury Tales, Dover Castle, Rochester Castle, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale near Faversham and Ramsgate Maritime Museum.

The free tickets, two per household, will be available from February 29 from the Kent Big Day Out website at www.visitkent.co.uk and local visitor information centres. And the organisers at VisitKent are urging everyone to book up early to avoid disappointment.

Fran Warrington, head of tourism for Kent County Council, said: "Kent's first Big Day Out last year was a tremendous success with thousands of free tickets booked within a few hours of the website going live.

Attractions

"This year's Big Day Out is going to be even more fun. We have more attractions taking part and 5,000 more free tickets."

Kent County Council cabinet member for regeneration Roger Gough said the Big Day Out was an important vehicle for promoting the best the county has to offer to visitors.

He explained: "The ethos of this event is to show people the amazing range of places to visit and activities right on our doorsteps.

"If we are on holiday we may well visit a castle or historic house, yet perhaps we neglect those in our own communities.



BOOK EARLY: Rochester Castle is one of the many destinations to visit free this month

"The Big Day Out on Saturday, March 29, will give people a free opportunity to go and explore the wealth of visitor attractions here in Kent. Making the people of Kent aware of what's around them is even more crucial as we approach the 2012 London Olympic Games.

"We are predicting large numbers of visitors to Kent and it's important they can be shown or told about all the places to visit."

Tourism is a key industry for the county contributing more than £1.8 billion to the local economy each year and supporting 49,500 jobs.

Kent's Big Days Out are providing students

keen to follow careers in hospitality and leisure businesses with hands-on experience within the industry.

Students from Mid Kent College in Maidstone and Medway, Canterbury College and Thanet College, will be assisting with market research and customer services at many of the attractions.

Their detailed research into last year's Big Day Out revealed that more than 93 per cent of Kent people who took advantage of free tickets rated the attraction they visited as excellent and stated that they would recommend it to friends and family.

Bluetongue danger from warm spring

A WARM spring could lead to an explosion in cases of the deadly Bluetongue virus as the vaccine will not be available until at least May.

The virus, which mostly affects sheep, but can also prove fatal to cattle, is spread by midges that are largely dormant over the winter.

It is feared that a large outbreak could devastate the county's sheep industry.

The Government has ordered large volumes of vaccine to be produced in the bid to stave off an outbreak this summer.

But the Institute for Animal Health has now admitted it is not likely to be available until the second half of May.

Last summer's outbreak was small compared to the Continent, with around 70 cases reported in the UK, including several in Kent.

However, countries such as Belgium, Germany and Holland experienced 1,000 per cent increases in the number of cases confirmed in the year after the original outbreak, prompting the Government to order the vaccine.

Most midges become adults around mid-May in the UK, just as the vaccine is due to become available, but a warm spring could mean many develop weeks earlier.

Dr Dave Cavanagh, spokesman for the Institute for Animal Health, said the virus was very dependent on temperature.

He said: "A consistent warm spell in April would mean more midges were emerging. At 15 degrees it would still take more than a fortnight for the virus to grow in the midges.

"It would still take a couple of cycles [midges infecting animals and then more midges feeding on those animals] before catastrophe."

Kent and its neighbouring counties are currently within a Bluetongue protection zone that restricts the movement of livestock.

Two new cases were confirmed in the county by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on February 1.

The exact locations have not been confirmed, although there have been previous cases reported at farms near Ashford and Sevenoaks.

According to a 2006 agricultural census, Kent has 1,124 sheep or cattle farms.

Isabel Bretherton, South East spokeswoman for the National Farmers Union, said it was vital farmers and those who keep small numbers of livestock book their vaccinations now.

She said: "The message we want to get out to farmers and smallholders is they have to book the vaccinations now with their vet.

"They have to vaccinate their flock or herd no matter how small it is."



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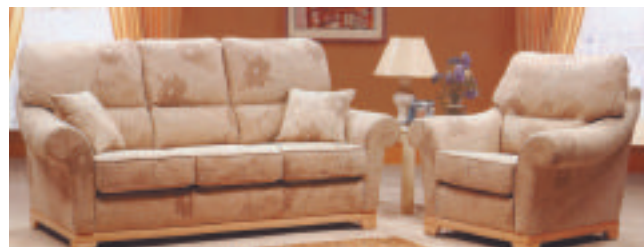
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Antibiotics aren't always the miracle cure you expect

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

PRESCRIBING antibiotics for coughs, colds and sore throats is fuelling the spread of hospital superbugs, according to health experts.

The Department of Health launched a national campaign this month to highlight the problem, warning that resistance to antibiotics was on the rise and action was needed now to ensure existing treatments remained effective.

Health Secretary Alan Johnson said: "The use of antibiotics have saved countless lives, but antibiotics do not work on most coughs, colds and sore throats and their unnecessary use can leave the body susceptible to gut infections like *Clostridium difficile* (C dif)."

Dr Robert Stewart, who is the medical director of Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT), said healthcare professionals in the county were working to address the problems raised by the overuse of antibiotics.

He said: "The use of antibiotics, certain types in particular, can actually be the reason they [superbugs] get going in the first place. I know healthcare professionals are looking at making sure the right antibiotics are prescribed at the right time and that they are not always seen as the answer to all ills."

In the second week of KOS Media's campaign against killer hospital bugs, we spoke to Sheila Brown, pharmacist and prescribing expert at Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT.

She explained why the overuse of antibiotics has been linked to rising rates of superbugs such as MRSA and C dif: "C dif is part of your natural flora of beneficial bacteria, which you need for good health."

She continued: "But when you take antibiotics, it does not always discriminate

KOS Media has joined forces with NHS organisations across Kent in a campaign to promote hand hygiene in all areas of our lives: at home, work, in hospitals and healthcare centres.

The message is simple – **WASH YOUR HANDS** – and help keep our hospital wards superbug-free. Health experts say simply keeping your hands clean is one way everybody can help in the battle against the bugs. Look out for the posters, leaflets, articles, radio interviews and film clips spreading the campaign's message throughout the county.

between the unhealthy bacteria, so it will eliminate the whole population of all of them."

Therefore by overusing antibiotics, patients leave themselves susceptible to unhealthy bacteria growing in place of what was there originally, she said.

"Around five per cent of the population is colonised with C dif, which increases to 25 per cent of older people. It is not a problem until something triggers bacteria to produce toxins, which is when you get the side-effects, such as diarrhoea, that are associated with C dif.

"Antibiotics can be the trigger that converts the bacterium to become toxigenic," Mrs Brown said.

Patients who ignore their doctor's advice to always finish an entire course of antibiotics are also putting themselves at risk.

Mrs Brown said: "If you do this, it means that not all of the bugs are killed off and the ones that survive are most likely to be drug-resistant.

"People are more susceptible [to other bugs] because the less resistant strains will have



been killed off first, but the bacteria that survived will reproduce so you are left with an infection which is slightly more resistant [to antibiotics]."

She added: "Only use antibiotics when they are really needed. If you are using them, always finish the course or otherwise you will increase resistance."

MRSA is one of the hospital-acquired infections that has developed an increased resistance to antibiotics.

The message from health experts is that antibiotics treat bacterial infections, not common viruses such as coughs, colds and sore throats.

Mrs Brown said GPs often felt pressured into prescribing antibiotics even when they were not needed.

"I think there's pressure from the public thinking that they are the answer to everything. But there are things you can do yourself," she said.

She recommended that people with coughs, colds and sore throats saw their pharmacist first and tried a range of over-the-counter remedies such as painkillers and throat lozenges.

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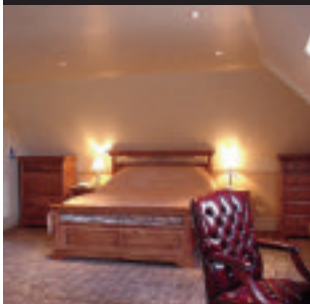
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There was plenty of reason to be cheerful at the TryAngle awards

Rewarded for caring

Youngsters show their spirit

■ BY ROB LIVINGSTONE

YOUNG people from across Kent have had their achievements recognised in the 14th Kent County Council Try Angle Awards.

At a glittering ceremony at Margate's Winter Gardens the best and brightest of Kent's youth received the praise they so justly deserve.

Dignitaries from Kent County Council, Kent police and MPs listened to stories of remarkable courage in the face of overwhelming adversity – resilience that many adults would be incapable of.

Maxine Cruise, 18, from Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey, won in the Arts and Music category after being accepted into the Royal Marines Band.

She plays the trumpet, clarinet and the violin, and described joining the Royal Marines Band as "brilliant".

"It is what I have always wanted to do and it is a really good experience," she said.

"It's great; it is quite shocking because there are other people here that are amazing. Everyone here has done really well."

Catherine Wilkins Smith, 16, from Rochester, won a Try Angle Award for service to the community for her efforts in training to be a nurse through joining the St John's Ambulance service.

She organised a first aid class at her school and is also a Beaver leader.

Jake Pearson, 12, and his younger brother Jed, from Bicknor, won a young carers award for looking after their mother.

This year's awards saw two siblings take home the coveted spirit of the tri angle award, as well as a young carers award.

Aaron and Lauren Christmas, from Ashford, have given their love and support to a number of children over the years by helping their parents as foster carers.

Aaron and Lauren were awarded the Spirit of the Try Angle Award for their help in caring for the latest arrival in the Christmas family – a five year old disabled boy who has lived with them for 18 months.

This has meant the two teenagers have had to give up normal activities that people of their age would be able to do, such as swimming, bike riding or going for walks on the beach.

Extraordinary

Presenting the award this year's host, BBC Radio Kent's Jo Burn, told Aaron and Lauren they had made sure the first years of the life of the little boy who lives with them were full of fun and love.

Roger Gale, North Thanet MP and chairman of the Try Angle Awards, said: "These people and their stories represent some of the finest of Kent's very fine youth."

"We know that out there around Kent there are thousands of thousands of young people who do quite extraordinary things that they don't regard as extraordinary at all, it is just part of their daily life and they just get on and do them."

WELL DONE: Maxine Cruise receives her award

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Yes, Valentine's Day is a mere 24-hours away and for many the pain and agony will return in equal measure.

The pain, for the majority of us, will, of course, be felt most keenly in the pocket.

Florists the length and breadth of the land will inflate prices above and beyond criminal levels, forcing you to remortgage your house in order to satisfy your significant other with a romantic bouquet that smells more of cash than pungent bloom.

Then, of course, there is the dubious joy of trying to find a card which doesn't prompt

your partner to vomit in its sickly-sweetness. This will particularly apply if, having read this, it has suddenly dawned on you that failure to produce a card in just a few short hours will result in a Valentine's Day ear-bashing.

However, perhaps the saddest part of the whole charade which is Valentine's Day is the loss of one of its traditional delights.

Because, while your colleagues crack the tired old gag above, they will only too obviously be joking.

Today, what is rarer than finding someone is actually sufficiently moved to send you card, is for the postman to actually deliver it before 11am.

Once upon a time, the postman and the milkman jockeyed for position on your doorstep in the early hours. Each setting their watches by the prospect of having their job done by the time most of us were out of bed and ready to head to work.

Today, the postmen and women of the Royal Mail seem to take a more leisurely approach to deliveries. If the post has landed on our door

mats by noon, we're grateful.

Granted, for the dwindling few who have milk delivered, it is there by the time they need to bathe their cornflakes in it. But, if you want to read your mail at the same time as your morning cuppa, then your only option is to pick up yesterday's post instead. And a utility bill does not warm the cockle of your hearts as much as a cheeky Valentine's card.

All of which means the chance of going to work with a spring in your step tomorrow morning because you've received a mysterious card is fast becoming a thing of the past.

But on the bright side, it buys us all a little time. And if you've forgotten to buy a card or pressie, you now have the chance to get to the shops tomorrow, blame the post, and put a smile on your loved one's face without them smelling a rat.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **SWALE** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourswale, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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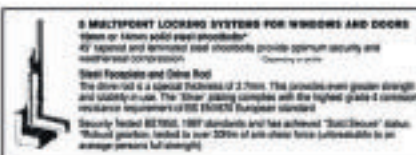
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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

LIVELY UP YOURSELF

Lively female, 26, 5'2", brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 426555

LIFE IS FOR LIVING

Outgoing, friendly, sociable woman, 27, seeks man to make her laugh and enjoy life that life has to offer. Box 897083

HONESTY & HUMOUR PLEASE!

Attractive female, 29, 5'8", 110lb, long hair/blue eyes, enjoys gym, cinema, dancing, seeking honest, reliable male 27-38 with a GSOH, for friendship possible. LTR. Box 410494

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

SEARCHING MR RIGHT

Lively, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking to meet someone special to share life, laughter and love. 429124

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HOPING FOR MORE

29y old kind, warm female, 5'8", cuddly build, love walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, WLM, tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430993

RAMSATE REVIVAL

Honest, single, outgoing female, 31, 5'11", loves to go out and stay in with good company, darts etc. WLM similar male, for friendship and more. Box 897915

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 406870

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

African lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pub, cinema, seeks male for friendship and more. Box 413126

LESSONS IN LOVE

Young, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher, WLM, caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50 with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 422480

TRY NEW THINGS

Mum of 1, I'm 5'8", blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old, I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH. I like keep life, cinema, dancing, darts. Box 431552

R U THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5'6", brown hair/eyes, Torridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107

HAPPY TIMES

35y old woman, looking to share happy moments with a loving, caring guy, around 35-40, who does sound like you? Box 435390

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family/friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honest, love, romance. Box 813930

TRUST MATTERS

Independent, professional female, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoy travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901771

TRAVEL HAPPY

Midweek female, 36, 5'8", blue/green eyes, slim, likes dancing, amateur dramatics, walks, much more, looking for someone who could make me laugh, for possible relationship. Box 435372

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM LIFE?

36 year old female, divorced with no children, brunet, loves travel, music, cinema, nice meals, theatre, car, salsa, seeking someone for dates and more. Rarham Box 434574

NICE SMILE???

Single 36y old female, like most things in life, very loving and caring, 5'5", curly build, good personality seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431286

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

PERSONALITY

Large, bubbly lady, 37, 5'8", like country walks, seaside, bird watching, all music, looking for that special male for good times. Box 435613

PRETTY WOMAN

WANTS HER RICHARD GERE
Hi I'm 37, 5'8", mostly long hair, grey eyes, N/S, large bubbly lady, love pubs, country walks, bird watching, seeking kind, tactful, N/S gent, possibly romantic! Box 435674

DON'T PASS ME BY

Cute single mum of 4, 37, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983

HUGS, LAUGHS AND CUDDLES

Honest, single female, 38, GSOH, live with my children, love a laugh, looking for friendship and hugs with a nice gent. Box 896649

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38y old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship. Box 301893

THE WIT TO WOOL

Female, 38, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no kids, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152892

MAKE ME GIGGLE

Black female, 38 years old, 5'2", likes going out, seeking a sociable male, who likes having a laugh. Gillingham. Box 429558

OH MANDY

38y old female, blonde, petite & slim, very tactile & bubbly, professional mum, WLM, honest, romantic N/S man. Box 430639

SAMTIMES YOU NEED A MAN

Bubbly 40y old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLM a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Single 40y old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLM a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102

JOIN ME BABY

Fun-loving, vivacious woman, early 40s, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH. N/S for friendship & maybe more. Box 896889

I KNOW YOU WERE WAITING

Loving, caring single mum, 42, loves socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 411456

STRIKE ME

5'2", slim, down-to-earth, normal! love bowling, cinema, clubs, seeking a male 40-65 for friendship and more! Box 430284

HAPPY NATURE

42y old outgoing female, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, medium build, enjoys cinema, meals out, seeking a friendly male for nice times. Box 435451

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 411456

FOOTBALL FANATIC

Deaf-behind lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5'10", likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves times and all sports except cricket. Box 430284

MEN ONLY, NO MICE!

I'm Jackie, 43, 5'11", blue eyes brown hair, single mum, love going out, reading, cycling, music, enjoy male company and seeking 27-45y old, for companionship. Box 436076

BE HERE NOW

38y old looking for an understanding, sensitive man. I enjoy music and being adventurous. Box 431913

A FINE ROMANCE

Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, wine, seeks sincere male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, reading, TV, swimming, travelling, WLM N/S man to share things with. Box 429682

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING NEW PEOPLE

45 year old female, has 2 dogs, works full time, likes horse riding, gardening, walks, socialising, enjoys eating out, cinema, good conversation Box 435464

DEAL?

Modern, professional, classy, blonde female, early 50s, 5'4", blonde hair, medium build, enjoys countryside, WLM gent, 45-58, smart appearance, for friendship, possible relationship. Box 825500

ARE WE SOULMATES?

53y old bubbly lady, 6ft, like meals out, staying in, looking for a caring man, share life's ups and downs. Box 435768

BEAUTIFUL DAY

54y female, enjoys home life, going out, pub, theatre, music, wishing to meet an understanding man, 45-60, to share the good things in life. Box 435468

DO YOU SCRUB UP

Modern, professional, classy, blonde female, early 50s, 5'4", blonde hair, medium build, enjoys countryside, WLM gent, 45-58, smart appearance, for friendship, possible relationship. Box 825500

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NICE AND LOVING

Bubbly, outgoing female, 54, likes pubs, walks, horse riding, cinema, seeks genuine, honest, 48-52, for companionship. Friendship, possible LTR. Box 386913

I DREAM OF DOMESTICITY!

Attractive, homely, caring 55y old lady, 5'2", slimmed down, GSOH, good conversationalist, looking for special person to share life's ups and downs with. Faversham. Box 406828

SAVING ALL MY LOVE

Young, 57y old modern female widow, slim, enjoys nights in, socialising, seeking honest, reliable man for friendship, love, affection and TLC. Box 920739

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH

Fun loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in. I'm voluptuous & looking for a warm man Box 905602

LIKE TO ENJOY LIFE

Happily-go-lucky female, 57, likes nice walks, pubs/clubs, quite nights in, loves children and animals, seeking an honest, caring man Box 435008

LIKES THE NICE THINGS IN LIFE

Divorced female, 50s, 5'4", own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeking friendship, for friendship & Box 434901

GREETINGS TO THE NEW BRUNETTE

Brunette female, 59, N/S, 5'8", hazel eyes, slimmed down, enjoys meals out, occasional drinks, gardening, music, keeping fit, days out at the coast, seeking friendship. Box 434895

STOP THE SHAKES!

49y old female, 5'3", blonde, nervous, outgoing, love music, socialising, simple things in life, seeking a male to look after and settle down with. Box 436633

FUNNY GIRL

Petite, blonde female, 50, GSOH, likes music, books, films, cooking, looking for romantic soulmate, 40-55, for TLC. Kent. Box 826181

CUDDLY AND TACTILE

Hi Fancy a cuddle? Tactile, open-minded mature woman, 50, curvy, affectionate, bubbly, very young-at-heart, seeks N/S 40y+ gent for lots of loving. Box 436556

ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?

Loyal, bubbly and affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoys clubs, nights in, love animals, seeking a like-minded gent for happiness. Box 433885

LOVE IS IN THE HAIR!

Sue, 51, slim, blue eyes, brunet, ladies hairdresser, looking for someone special. How about you? Box 431901

PUTTER IN YOUR HANDS!

Sporty female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'8", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating in/out. WLM fun-loving, kind, sporty male, 48-60, 5'10", to share life. Box 185367

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ARE WE SOULMATES?

yourcompetition

WIN tickets to the Country Living Magazine Spring Fair



STEP into Spring at the Country Living Magazine Spring Fair next month as it returns for its 17th event - and you could be there for free thanks to our competition.

From March 12-16, the Business Design Centre, Islington, London will showcase the best of British crafts, interior inspirations, handmade jewellery and fashion along with regionally produced food and drink. More than 300 independent designers and talented craftspeople from across the UK will exhibit at the fair.

Bringing the pages of Country Living Magazine to life, the Fair attracts thousands of visitors to soak up the wonderful atmosphere and meet the regional producers behind the variety of items available. Create an indulgent al fresco banquet with fine wines, fresh produce including oils, olives, Mediterranean breads and handmade cheeses from the Spring Fair food hall. From beautiful home accessories and items for the garden to handcrafted garments and bespoke handbags, the array of products available at the Fair is guaranteed to put a spring in your step!

Tickets purchased in advance are priced at adult: £11, Country Living subscriber adult: £10, Gala Evening: £11 Gala & Sunday Shop: £15, child (under 16): £6.50, OAP: N/A. Tickets purchased on the door are priced at adult: £14.50,

Gala Evening: £12.50, Gala & Sunday: £17.50, child (under 16): £8.00, OAP: £11.

For further information and to book tickets, visit www.countrylivingfair.com or call 08701 261800.

We've got 15 pairs of adult tickets to give-away, valid for any of the five days of the fair.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Spring Fair comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. You can also text your answer to 81800, by sending SPRING15, followed by a space, the answer, a space and your name and address.

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. Closing date is February 28, 2008.

Question: What date is the Country Living Magazine Spring Fair starting?



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TALK TIME

DAVID RICHARDS

Faversham resident David Richards talks about the town and its past, present and future.



What changes would you like to see to make Faversham an even better place to live?

I'd like to see more police on the streets; it can get a bit rowdy at times and can be quite intimidating late at night when people express their natural enthusiasm for life, shall we say, but you get that anywhere.

Are there any negative aspects to the town?

As I said, it can get a bit rowdy, but it's more a feeling of unease, of what could happen rather than what actually does happen, but in general it's still a very pleasant place to live.

What do you like about living in the town?

I like its character, its appearance, the old centre with the guildhall and Abbey Street.

The quay is very important, and the general history of the place; Faversham dates back to Roman times and for a long time was a very important town in ancient Britain. It's nice to live somewhere with some real character. It's a gem.

Why is the quay so important to Faversham?

The quayside is a great asset, part of the town's character. Forthcoming investment in the area will potentially produce more traditional skills which have sadly been drifting away. It's a great shame that in its fairly recent past the quay has lost of lot of that, but efforts are being made to bring it back.

It has long since ceased to be a proper working port, although in the next few years, with the onset of global warming, that may very well change.

YOUR LETTERS



Must church be turned into house?

Interested as I was to see an historic church is to go under the auctioneer's hammer (Will auction be answer to your prayers?, Yourswale, February 6) I cannot help but feel sad another place of worship is to be sold off.

Have we in this country truly reached the stage where faith plays such a small part in our lives that a house of God must be turned into just another house for the well-heeled?

Gina Ratner
Eastling



Pay levels are right for the market

The rise in executives at the council earning more than £50,000 is hardly surprising.



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

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To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourswale.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne and Sheppey and our villages.

We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourswale before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourswale.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

After all, getting the right man (or woman) for the right job in this competitive marketplace requires a good price to be paid. And if the executive can justify

the wage, then why shouldn't they earn the money?

Yet it remains the case in Faversham that we have a chief executive earning £100,000 on

gardening leave. That is clearly a waste of public money.

Kath Gratin
Via email

Can executives justify their pay?

How can Swale council justify tripling the number of staff it has earning £50,000-plus a year?

All we hear is how it is having to cut back on services yet there remain a few fat cats at the top of the pile enjoying all the cream.

Perhaps they should examine whether the 16 staff earning such wage packets actually generate the sufficient return in revenues to justify them?

W Catt
Faversham



UKIP are fighting to keep us free

It was good to see your article last week on UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage.

I have been a member of UKIP for over ten years. It is the only party for anyone who truly loves their country and wants to keep it independent and British.

It is my generation whose fathers and grandfathers gave their lives to keep us free.

We have also seen a great change in many systems in this country and very few of them for the better.

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Like the changes in the reason MPs stand to be elected. No longer is it for the good of the country, but for what they can get for themselves.

People these days are either too busy working to keep their families or receive too much from the state to bother what is going on in our country or have too much.

The UK Independence Party is well worth supporting.

Jill Collin
by email

Race should be held closer to home

I applaud your coverage of the Race For Life charity event last week.

However, it seems a great shame the nearest event is in Herne Bay and there is not one in Faversham.

I hope in future years the organisers could try and stage one a little closer to home in order to attract more local people.

It is, after all, a great event for a worthwhile cause.

Kym Smith
Faversham

Good clean fun was what Beadle's about

It's very easy to make light of Jeremy Beadle's passing – and your blogger last week did make some amusing points.

However, what they missed was the fact Jeremy provided regular doses of clean, family fun which never offended and always featured



people that were in on the joke. Unlike, it seems, much of today's TV stars, who seem to relish in embarrassing people at whatever cost it takes.

If only there were more people like Jeremy.

Ian Waite
Via email

Jump on your bike and help raise cash

As a patron of CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading children's cancer charity and someone who loves to travel and experience new cultures, I am writing to encourage your readers to do something amazing in 2008 and help children with cancer.

CLIC Sargent is offering an unforgettable challenge, a 410 kilometre cycle in the shadow of the awe-inspiring Great Wall of China.

CLIC Sargent provides crucial support for children and young people with cancer, as well as their families.

I support them because I believe the services they provide really make a real difference to their lives.

By taking up this fantastic adventure you'll experience outstanding scenery and culture as

well as making new friends along the way.

Moreover, the money you raise will help CLIC Sargent continue their work with the ten children and young people diagnosed with cancer every day.

Starting north of Beijing, the cycle from October 10-19 will take you through remote villages and along hilly roads as well as visiting the ancient Ming Tombs.

On the last day of your challenge you can either celebrate by spending time at a school in Beijing or exploring the culture, sound and smells of China including the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Lama Temple.

So what are you waiting for? Do something amazing in 2008 and have the adventure of a lifetime whilst helping children with cancer!

For a free information pack see www.clicsargent.org.uk/challenges or call 0845 124 1188.

Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen,
CLIC Sargent patron, by email



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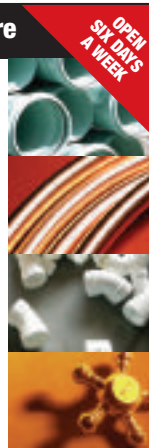
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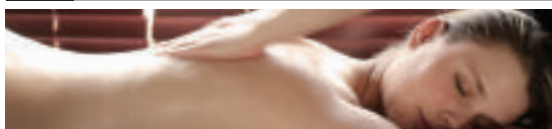
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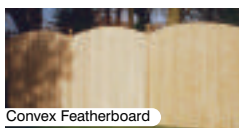
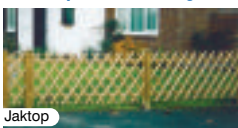
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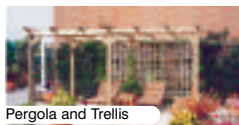
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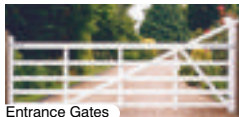


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SHARP: From sword-walking to swallowing, the Circus of Horrors has a variety of deadly tricks to horrify and entertain amazed audiences

Horrifically entertaining

Enjoy some truly gruesome circus tricks

VISIT a big top with a big twist when the Circus of Horrors brings its unique brand of bloodcurdling antics to Kent.

The circus visits the Leas Cliff Hall next month with its brand new show, Bloodthirsty and Burlesque, with even more bizarre, grotesque and daring acts to keep spectators on the edge of their seats. This awe-inspiring show will have the audience both covering their eyes and rolling with laughter as its crazy stars work their shocking magic.

In the new show, all the old favourites are present but this time they are trapped in the Macabre Mad House, until they escape and run amok into the Parisian night life.

Undead ringmaster Dr Haze presides over the madness, as witchdoctors, voodoo acrobats, bendy bodies, demon dwarfs and even a pickled person play out the hellish tale.

The show, which contains some nudity and bad language, is recommended as PG viewing. Strobe lighting and pyrotechnics are also used.

Circus of Horrors staged its first full show at Glastonbury 13 years ago, revolutionising traditional ideas about the circus. The early shows were set in the distant future and ran for five years, before being given a major makeover in 2000. Staging became more theatre-friendly and a brand new story was introduced in



CIRCUS OF HORRORS

Sunday, March 8

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

the form of The Evilution AKA Welcome To The Freak Show Tour. Set in 1800s London, the story featured a young girl who ran away to join the circus only to be targeted by a sadistic vampire.

The company was the brainchild of ringmaster Dr Haze, who was born to a circus family but developed a passion for music as a teenager. At 20 he left the circus to form his first band Flash Harry, which was later renamed Haze. Under various alterna-

tive names, Haze enjoyed some success and even supported the likes of Depeche Mode and Gary Glitter.

Dr Haze was unable to escape his theatrical heritage, with live performances becoming ever more spectacular. Setting his sights on a bigger stage, he enlisted the help of infamous ringmaster Gerry Cottle to create something amazing.

Just six months after they met, the first Circus of Horrors show was premiered and a worldwide sensation was born.

With such an array of incredible performers, the risk of serious injury is never far away. Sword swallower Hannibal Hellmurto skewered his larynx last year and had to be rushed to hospital. Captain Dan the Demon Dwarf also had to visit a hospital when he had an unfortunate incident with a vacuum cleaner.

Brother and sister contortionist act, Emilia and Victor Arata, (who are not on the current tour) recently made headlines when they became housemates on Channel 4's reality show Big Brother Celebrity Hijack. Emilia made it to the final and was only beaten to the £50,000 prize by student politician John Loughton.

Discover the weird and wonderful world of Circus of Horrors – if you dare! The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets are priced from £10 to £25. Call the box office on 0844 847 1776 or see www.leascliffhall.co.uk.

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AFRICAN SPIRIT

Friday, February 15
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

EXPERIENCE the warm and exotic sound of the critically acclaimed Soweto Gospel Choir.

For the first time, the group will be accompanied by its own four-piece band in the new show African Spirit. There will be new dance routines and costumes, as well as

a chance to hear the choir perform a capella.

The show explores the many different aspects of love – from religious belief, to the love humans have for each other and the spirit of living in harmony together. Featuring everything from gospel songs to material by Bob Dylan, African Spirit is an uplifting celebration of the beauty and passion that is Africa.

Since enjoying a sell-out

debut at the Edinburgh Festival in 2003, the choir has performed to full houses all over the world and sung alongside some music legends. They have also just finished recording with Robert Plant for the Fats Domino tribute album.

Performances start at 5.30pm and 8.30pm and tickets cost £25/£23. Call the box office on 01227 787787 or see www.marlowetheatre.com.

LEFTOVERS

Wednesday, February 20
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

A CHILDHOOD spent above a greasy spoon café is the subject of Mem Morrison's intriguing Leftovers.

His one-man show explores the cultural connotations of the traditional English eatery, as run by Morrison's Turkish Cypriot parents. As a Muslim, he was unable to eat the food his parents cooked every day, though he ate English food at school in an attempt to fit in. Food became the focal point of segregation and conflict, presenting him with daily challenges.

"As a child, I didn't have the skills to embrace my cultural heritage because I was putting my energies into fighting against it," he recalled. "I wanted to be accepted by those around me but wasn't willing to accept myself."

The show features Morrison building a wall of white bread loaves and toasting it under a stage light, as he plays the various imaginary games a small child could get up to after hours.

The performance starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12/£10. To book call the box office on 01227 769075 or see www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.



LIGHTSPEED CHAMPION

Thursday, February 21
Studio 41, Canterbury

ONE of the UK's most exciting new acts will be performing at Studio 41 next week.

Presented by the team behind Lounge On The Farm, Lightspeed Champion – AKA Dev Hynes – will close his headlining UK tour at the Canterbury venue. Described as a semi-acoustic, country rock and folk pop sound, his music combines dark lyrics with an emotional tone.

His debut album, Falling Off The Lavender Bridge,

was recorded in Omaha, Nebraska, with Saddle Creek Records' resident producer, Mike Mogis. The resulting collection will come as a surprise to those who remember him from his former band, Test Icicles.

He featured in the NME Top 50 Cool List last year and the Guardian described his sound as "authentically lovely, baroque country-inflected pop".

Doors open at 8pm and tickets cost £7. Numbers are strictly limited to 400, over-18s only.

Find out more at www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk, or see www.myspace.com/lightspeedchampion.



SWALE LEISURE

Enjoy Beer and Cocaine at the Chimney Boy

ACCOMPLISHED and funny musician Phil Beer will be appearing at Faversham Folk Club next week.

Seemingly able to play anything with strings, Beer opens the gig with the JJ Cale song Cocaine before explaining he first played it at his parent/teacher meeting at the age of 12.

He will play at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street at 8.30pm on Wednesday, February 20. Tickets cost £9. For details see www.favershamfolkclub.net.

Landlord's cover up at Plough Inn's gig night

HEAD down to the Plough Inn in Norton tonight for a great evening of live music.

The pub in Lewson Street hosts bands on most Wednesday nights, featuring everything from covers to jazz and blues. Tonight, covers band Landlord Tenant Act will be providing the entertainment.

For details, call the pub on 01795 521348 or see www.theploughinn.biz.

Dancing Dragons fly in for New Year event

CELEBRATE the Chinese New Year with a fun family activity at Whitstable Museum and Art Gallery.

The Dancing Dragons! event offers the chance to create a fun dragon puppet to take home afterwards. Running from 10am to 12.30pm, the workshop will be held at the museum in Oxford Street on Saturday.

For details call Manda Gifford on 01227 276998 or see www.whitstable-museum.co.uk.

Promote your event on our leisure pages

IF you would like your concert, play or other event to be featured on these pages, feel free to get in touch.

Just email full details of the event – including date, time, venue, ticket prices and how to book – to our leisure reporter jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk at least two weeks before the preferred publication date. Or post information to the address on page two. If possible, send a good photo to illustrate the story.

Coverage cannot be guaranteed, but we do our best to promote local events.

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Julie Maddocks reports on celebrating the Chinese New Year in style

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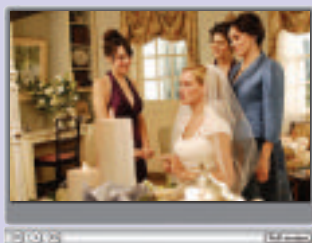
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THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY (12A)



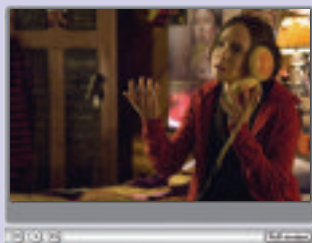
At the age of 43, Jean-Dominique Bauby, editor-in-chief of French magazine *Elle*, suffered a stroke, he awoke to find himself the victim of locked-in syndrome – mentally alert, but only able to communicate by blinking his left eye. Bauby was taught an alphabet which unlocked the prison of his body which he called his 'diving bell' and gave him freedom that he called 'the butterfly'.

THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND (PG)



Emma is a relationship expert with a hit radio show. She is serious and sensible about love and gives advice to women on how to find the right man without wasting time on the wrong ones. But matters of the heart are never as clean-cut as Emma believes them to be.

JUNO (12A)



Juno is a smart teen confronting an unplanned pregnancy by her classmate Paul Bleeker. Luckily, Juno has the total support of her parents as she faces some tough decisions, flirts with adulthood and ultimately figures out where she belongs.

UK home is a real treasure

BY BEN FALK

NICOLAS Cage is an international film star, so you'd expect him to jet into Britain for an interview from his yacht in Monte Carlo, or his beach pad in Malibu. Instead, he arrives at a London hotel from the celeb-packed town of Bath.

It just so happens that Nic is a gigantic Anglophile and has all but moved his family to Britain, as well as purchasing a run-down castle in Bavaria.

"I genuinely like the English weather," he says, without a hint of irony. "I like the rain, I like the gloomy clouds. Plus, I've never had much luck with my allergies and sinuses and the rain keeps the pollen count down, so I feel healthier and can breathe better."

His desire to give young son Kal-El (whose mother is Cage's wife Alice and who was named by his comic-book geek Dad after the real Krypton name of Superman) a European-style education, means the star has been spending less and less time in his homeland. It's a habit exacerbated by his latest movie – the sequel *National Treasure: Book Of Secrets* – which is set mostly in Paris and London.

"I want to make it increasingly *International Treasure*," he explains. "I want to go everywhere."

The film, which is, surprisingly, Nic's first ever sequel, once again follows the exploits of Benjamin Gates – a history buff and explorer. This time around, Gates finds himself having to exonerate an ancestor who has been implicated in Abraham Lincoln's assassination.

It's a fairly threadbare plot, but being a Hollywood blockbuster, it more than makes up for it with break-ins to Buckingham Palace,

VIEW THIS PREVIEW
yourkenttv.co.uk



the kidnapping of the President, the introduction of Dame Helen Mirren as Gates' mother and a mind-blowing car chase around the streets of London.

More importantly, the film – which has just climbed over the \$200 million mark at the US box office – gives Nic a chance to indulge in one of his biggest interests, history.

"I think what I like about old things is that if you are in the presence of it and you use a little bit of imagination it feels as if you can time travel in some way," he says.

"You can feel or recall the events of the past and think about things that have happened there and hopefully get some inspiration."

Indeed, he reveals that he particularly loves Somerset, because it "emanates spirits" and "ancient history".

There are so far no plans for *National Treasure 3*, with Nic instead focusing on upcoming roles in Far East-flavoured action flick *Bangkok Dangerous* and *G-Force*, in



PART TWO: *Book of Secrets* is Nicolas Cage's first sequel which was filmed in England, a country the star explains he loves so much that he has chosen to live here

which he provides the voice for a specially-trained guinea pig who is dispatched on a top-secret, world-saving mission.

He hopes to direct again too; his debut, *Sonny*, came out way back in 2002. "I have some ideas and I will in the next two years direct my next feature," he says, confirming that he will also star.

"That seems to be the unfortunate reality of actors trying to become film makers, is that we have to cast ourselves, otherwise we can't get money to make the movie."

**NATIONAL TREASURE:
BOOK OF SECRETS**
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Take your hats off to Panama

BY LAURA SILVERMAN

OUR little boat was tossing and turning on the seas like a ball inside a lottery machine, with pellets of rain gushing from above as if the gods had gone paint-balling.

Yet onwards we sped – down the Chagres River and into Gatun Lake, which feeds that marvel of engineering splitting North and South America: the Panama Canal.

The sky had layers of thick grey-white clouds closing in on us, each tier sagging from the weight of the one above. Then the wind blew and the rain stopped.

Such downpours are common in Panama during winter, which runs from mid-April to mid-December. It is one of the wettest places on earth – although unlike the rest of Central America it doesn't have hurricanes and is warm all year round.

So much water provides a fertile environment for plants and wildlife. In its indigenous language, 'panama' means an abundance of fish or butterflies. Man has, of course, made his mark with the infamous 50-mile canal, but what was impressive is now outdated.

Last September saw the start of a seven-year project to expand the waterway to accommodate more and larger ships. Presently, there can be queues of up to 100



POPULAR: Hundreds of boats travelling between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans come to the Panama Canal

liners on either side. The Gatun Lake is deserted, at least in terms of boats and tourists – although not in terms of nature, especially as we approach Monkey Island. Here a turtle paddling in the water; there a sloth curled up on a branch and lots of monkeys in the trees.

Nor could we escape animals back at our hotel, the Gamboa Rainforest Resort. In its grounds – the Soberania National Park – lizards scuttled noisily through the grass; agouti (like giant rats on springs) bounded up from behind bushes; frogs croaked incessantly

in a high-pitched trigger.

And the birds! With its 950 species, Panama has more types of bird than any other country in Central America. And you don't need to wait for hours to spot them, although there are tours to see the more rare ones. At dawn, hummingbirds whizz around the trees, at dusk vultures circle the ocean.

Of course, the whole country is not wild, swampy landscape. Panama City is an incongruous mix of anything but. And it is the view from the partially-reconstructed cathedral tower of the original old city, Panama Viejo, that best tells the story of Panama's somewhat turbulent past.

From one side is a Miami-style skyline – soaring office blocks, new five-star hotels and luxury apartments drawing American retirees. A gap in the facing wall reveals building work. Another side exposes water – inescapable. And from the last you can see ruins.

Panama was the first European settlement on the Pacific coast of the Americas and was built and inhabited by the Spanish in the 16th century. In the late 17th century the city was burned down by an English pirate, Henry Morgan, and was moved to a place known today as Casco Antiguo, Casco Viejo or the Old Quarter. With the faded glory of its French, Spanish and early American architecture, this part of town resembles a cross-between Havana and New Orleans.

It is clear that the country – already one of the most stable in Central America – is on the up. For history as engaging and fascinating as its natural environment, Panama reigns.

FACT FILE: PANAMA

Time difference	UK -5 hours
Currency	Balboa 2 to £1
Capital	Panama City
Population	32 million
Language	Spanish
Religion	Roman Catholic
Climate	Tropical

Holiday details

Laura Silverman was a guest of Virgin Holidays, which offers seven nights' half-board at the four-star Gamboa Rainforest Resort from £1,099 during 2008, including Virgin Atlantic flights into Panama, via Cuba, plus transfers and half-board accommodation.

Virgin can arrange regional departures from Manchester and Glasgow from around £25 return, subject to availability, to link with the Cuba flight which only leaves Gatwick.

Virgin Holidays reservations: 0871 222 304 or visit www.virginholidays.com



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TRENDSETTER

Singer songwriter Kate Nash is starting a new craze with her 1940s dresses.

Picture REX FEATURES



Time for tea

RIVER ISLAND

Shoes, price £4999



Recreate Kate Nash's 40s style with these pretty tea dresses

NEW LOOK

Dress, price £25

**DUNE**

Gettle shoe boots, price £85

**MATALAN**

Tea dress, price £16



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DOROTHY PERKINS
Tea dress, price £35

MONSOON

Rosemary bead dress, price £55



NEW LOOK
Dress, price £20



NEW LOOK
Dress, price £35



NEXT
Dress, price £35



PRIMARK
Wedge sandals, price £12



SWALE SHOPPING

Zoom in to store to snap up cheaper cameras

SHOPPERS can save up to half price on cameras so catching that special moment on film this Valentine's Day couldn't be easier.

Argos is offering its customers huge savings of up to half price off of selected digital cameras. Cameras available to buy under this offer include various styles of Sony, Fujifilm, Kodak, Cannon and Samsung.

To find out more visit www.argos.co.uk or pop into your local store.

Farmers plough profits back to local producers

A NEW concept in butchery is being launched at Brogdale Farm in Faversham.

From this week, the Butcher of Brogdale will only sell meat sourced from farmers in and around the Faversham area.

The company believes no other butcher can guarantee their meat has travelled less than 35-miles and has not been supplemented by wholesalers.

Visit the new shop in the Market Place between 9am and 5pm, from Thursday (Feb 14) to Sunday, February 17.

Supermarket takes look at the whole package

ASDA customers could be carrying lighter shopping bags, thanks to the supermarket's proposed Green Rollbacks.

The company has announced it will plough £10million into lowering prices as a result of reducing packaging on its own brand products.

It plans to introduce the savings in May and reduce its own brand packaging by 25 per cent by the end of this year.

Instant coffee and wines are already being sold in lighter glass jars, while the cardboard used to package ready meals has been reduced by 32 per cent.

Body Shop range aims to put a spring in your step

GET fresh this spring with the new ranges of makeup and skin care from The Body Shop.

The limited edition Spring Bloom collection features delicate pastel shades in floral designs, including a shimmering blush in two shades, three eye shadow palettes and some great pink lip glosses.

Inspired by the Japanese belief that cherry blossom signals the start of spring, there is also a new bath and body range containing the fragrant flower. Products include eau de toilette, body butter, shower gel and body lotion.

Reduced nappy prices no rash decision for parents

PARENTS wanting to save money after an expensive Christmas can do so thanks to a top supermarket chain.

Morrisons has answered hundreds of parents prayer's by lowering the prices by a third off a range of Huggies nappies. Size one, new born, size three, four and five of Huggies SuperDry and the Huggies SuperDry value box have all had their prices cut.

To discover how much more you can save see in store.



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WED 10 MARCH

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WED 12 MARCH

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yourswaletimeout



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

No23

Can you spot the five differences between these two pictures of the platform of Yalding railway station?

Answers to all of this week's **timeout** answers can be found on our website

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

AN interest in the subconscious could prompt you to undergo analysis or read books on the subject. Taking up a sport could prove stimulating this week. You need a healthy outlet for your pent up energies, but you'd be wise not to push yourself too hard during the early stages.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

TRUST your intuition when it comes to a professional matter. If you're thinking of changing industries this would be a good week. If you're unhappy with the cash initially offered, press for more. Your would-be employer knows your skills and should value them accordingly.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU have a tendency to put a loved one on a pedestal this week. Although your faith in them is touching, it can lead to trouble. Take care you don't set this relationship up for failure. By recognising and accepting their shortcomings, they'll be less scared of letting you down.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOUR home and family could be a welcome retreat this week. If you are struggling to make ends meet you should cast around for a new way forward and check out an unorthodox way to make savings. Someone close has a wacky plan that's not so daft as it might seem.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

WORKING on developing your unexplored talents is a great idea this week. In the past, you've been modest about your skills, preferring to pursue certain subjects as a hobby or endeavour. The idea of making money from them feels a little odd, but you should think closely about it now.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

AN interest in religious lore or foreign practices could prompt you to step out of your comfort zone. Don't be surprised if you make contact with a respected expert in this field. A romance could be in the works here. You'll have to take the initiative, since you're more daring.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

CREATIVE work is good for you this week. Instead of relying on logic, let intuition be your guide. Moving forward as though obstacles don't exist brings exciting breakthroughs. An individual has faith in you, and may want you to take a promotion. You will rise to this challenge.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU could hear intriguing news about a relative, neighbour, or friend. Making more time for your nearest and dearest will lift your spirits. If you're looking for love, you could find it at a park or sporting event. The object of your affection shares your love for the great outdoors.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

STOP telling yourself you have no imagination. You can develop incredible techniques if you practice. Be upfront if you aim to make a breakthrough with anyone trying to push you into a decision you don't want to make. A short trip to see a male friend could be in the cards this week.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

A ROMANTIC relationship helps you look at life through rose-coloured glasses. You're strongly attracted to someone who has their own individual sense of style. Working behind the scenes may be more profitable than taking on a more prominent position.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

AN idyllic romance puts a spring in your step. There's no better morale booster than falling in love. Taking up a spiritual or philosophical pursuit could prove rewarding. Intellectual stimulation is as essential as food and drink to you so boost your brainpower now.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

FINDING imaginative ways to make money appeals to your sense of adventure. If your energy levels droop, it may be time to revise your health regimen. Improving your diet and increasing your aerobic activity will help you cope with the demanding days ahead.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No23

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

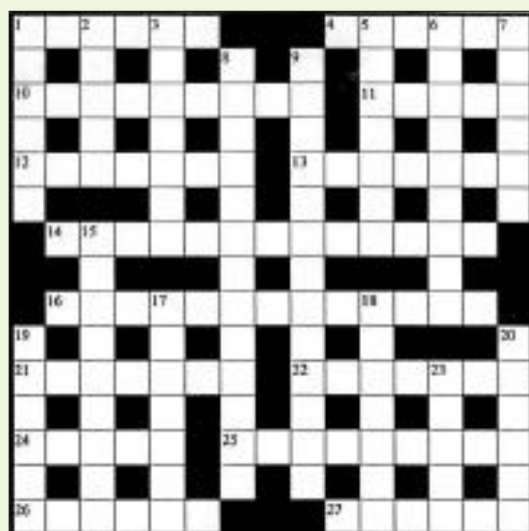
ACROSS

- 1 Leave suddenly from French shelter (6)
- 4 Spoil line of vegetable (6)
- 10 Noted sliding movement? (9)
- 11 During the meal, terrific change (5)
- 12 Satisfy us returning very loudly at the rink (7)
- 13 Small creature coming from top, lead off (7)
- 14 Horsemanship of squire, I am sent all over the place (13)
- 16 Deception in duplicate bridge? (6-7)
- 21 Certainly not a full-blooded complaint (7)
- 22 Astronomical instrument was brown in the street (7)
- 24 Penny had slight sprain and puncture (5)
- 25 Colin loth to produce item of clothing (9)
- 26 Being successful heartlessly when drinking (6)
- 27 Plant a new tree (6)

DOWN

- 1 Take in the summary (6)
- 2 Main leader (5)
- 3 Young lady, I have the letter (7)
- 5 A wicked fellow's destination? (7)
- 6 So atropin could be administered for killing rodents (3-6)
- 7 Closer to discovery nearer the fire (6)
- 8 It's not above-board to be very drunk (5,3,5)
- 9 Vessel holding vessels (9,4)
- 15 Estimated price for bit of Shakespeare perhaps (9)
- 17 Impact family made on rustic fellow (7)
- 18 Law I state relating to vocabulary (7)
- 19 Handles the fruit (6)
- 20 Ethnic disturbance on the river in Hampshire (6)
- 23 A fit, more or less (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Developed (6)
- 4 Food container (6)
- 10 Discover (9)
- 11 Cloth from flax (5)
- 12 Libyan port (7)
- 13 Friendly understanding (7)
- 14 Weighing instrument (6,7)
- 16 Sausages in batter (4-2-3-4)
- 21 Spanish painter (7)
- 22 Oval (7)
- 24 Treachery (5)
- 25 Soaking (9)
- 26 Agreement (6)
- 27 Setter (anag.) (6)

DOWN

- 1 Attractiveness (6)
- 2 Spherical bacteria (5)
- 3 Wireless pioneer (7)
- 5 Striped cotton fabric (7)
- 6 Ecclesiastical (9)
- 7 Think over (6)
- 8 Progressing (6,7)
- 9 Did not reach one's full potential (13)
- 15 Ostracise (9)
- 17 Tressed (anag.) (7)
- 18 Witch (7)
- 19 Small peg (6)
- 20 Elevation (6)
- 23 Award (5)



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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE No 22: 1) Crest missing from front of house 2) Letter 'N' missing 3) Star erased from sign 4) Word 'Toilet' taken out 5) Red stripes on beach hut have been turned purple.

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS No22

ACROSS: 8 River Tees 9 Repel 10 Antitoxic 11 Sinus 12 Living language 15 Pour 17 Yobbo 19 Edge 21 Current account 23 Sisal 24 Crumbling 26 Ionic 27 Attrition. **DOWN:** 1 Simnel 2 Believer 3 Attorney 4 Deli 5 Presage 6 Spaniard 7 Plastered 13 Libya 14 Spacesuit 16 Uprising 18 Once more 19 Equality 20 Hemlock 22 Tensor 25 Rote.

QUICK SOLUTIONS No23

ACROSS: 1 Became 4 Eggcup 10 Ascertained 16 Road-in-the-hole 21 Picasso 22 Elipse 24 Galle 25 Drenching 26 Treaty 27 Street. **DOWN:** 1 Bearly 2 Cooch 3 Marconi 5 Caliente 6 Canonical 7 Pounder 8 Making inroads 9 Underachieved 15 Proscribe 17 Dessert 18 Helicat 19 Spigot 20 Height 23 Prize.

yourswaletelevision

PICK OF THE WEEKEND

BBC one

SATURDAY: MATCH OF THE DAY (4.55pm):

Heavyweights Manchester United and Arsenal clash on the road to Wembley.

SUNDAY: LIFE IN COLD BLOOD (6pm): Attenborough's latest wildlife extravaganza, focuses on reptiles and amphibians from their habitats in jungles and deserts.

BBC TWO

SATURDAY: THE CULTURE SHOW (7pm): Lauren Laverne presents the weekly arts and culture magazine.

SUNDAY: TROPIC OF CANCER (8pm): Simon Reeve travels along the line of latitude which cuts across South Africa, South America and Australia in this travel documentary.

itv

SATURDAY: PRIMEVAL (6.30pm): The team face a new challenge as a giant Columbian mammoth causes havoc on a busy motorway in broad daylight. All they have to do is catch it and keep it hidden.

SUNDAY: DANCING ON ICE (6.25pm): It's hotting up on the ice as the celebrities battle it out to win the judges' approval and the viewers' vote. The results show starts at 8.45pm.

4

SATURDAY: GRAND DESIGNS (7.15pm): Further fuelling the DIY boom, the series follows householders as they totally transform their homes.

SUNDAY: WIFE SWAP (8pm): Self-made millionaire Nick Ayton and his wife Debbie swap places with Susan and Roland Gianstefani - Jesus Christains who are also freegans. Sparks will no doubt fly.

five

SATURDAY: RENAISSANCE MAN (5.50pm): Danny DeVito stars in a comedy about a former advertising executive forced to take a temporary job training recruits at an army camp.

SUNDAY: THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK (6.30pm): Leonardo di Caprio stars in Alexandre Dumas' swashbuckling tale about a plan brining the Three Musketeers out of retirement in a bid to oust the French King, Louis XIV.

New decade brings a twist to Life on Mars

BY ANDY WELCH

LIFE On Mars is one of the most-talked about television shows in recent memory. Managing to satisfy both TV critics and millions of viewers, it achieved what few other programmes ever do.

It ended after only two series, leaving fans begging for more, but John Simm, who played main character DI Sam Tyler, was reluctant to carry on.

Thankfully, the creative minds behind the award-winning formula came up with a new twist on the tale to keep the format going.

The resulting programme is Ashes To Ashes, which sees former Spooks star Keeley Hawes take on the fish-out-of-water role, plus the return of the regulars we grew to love during Life On Mars, most notably DCI Gene Hunt.

"Ashes To Ashes is very much of its own making, it has a completely different feel to Life On Mars," says Philip Glenister, who plays the outspoken copper.

"We didn't want to remake Life On Mars, there'd be no point, so the writers were adamant about making it its own show, and having seen the DVDs of the final show, they were totally right. I was blown over."

It's little wonder he was so impressed. The first episode sees DCI Hunt and sidekicks Chris and Ray tearing along the River Thames in a speedboat, armed with machine guns.

"That's a bit over-the-top, but it was our Miami Vice moment," he says, laughing. "The guy driving the boat was a loon. You just can't let stuntmen loose in speedboats. The director said, 'Come round at a bit of a lick' so he took that to mean going as fast as he could and throwing us about."



HE'S BACK: DCI Gene Hunt returns in Ashes to Ashes, a creative twist to the highly successful Life on Mars

If you're familiar with Life On Mars, the premise of this new series is quite simple.

While Sam Tyler's escapades took place in the Manchester of 1973, Ashes To Ashes transports us to 1981 London, an important year in Glenister's life: "I'd just finished college and was looking for work. I didn't know what, just that I didn't want a 9-5 thing. So I went for a job where you work 8am till 8pm six days a week!"

DI Alex Drake (Hawes) is a high-ranking profiler for the Met, and single mother to Molly.

After a tense encounter with a criminal who seemingly knows everything about her, Alex

wakes up to find herself 27 years in the past.

Drake has also spent a lot of time in the present reading Sam Tyler's detailed psychiatric report, so she knows all about Gene Hunt and his old-fashioned, hard-drinking ways. Never in a million years did she think she'd come face to face with him, let alone end up working alongside him.

But what's happened to Gene in the seven or eight years since we last saw him keeping Manchester's streets clean in his super-powered Ford Cortina?

"Well, he's not the big honcho of Manchester any more. Gene's now fairly small-fry in the world of the London Met," explains Philip. "He's become more institutionalised I suppose. Gene's journey throughout the series will be interesting. We see a man trying to keep a grip on his old-fashioned style of policing, which is being moved on. He's being left behind a little."

"There's much more of a melancholic feel about him in this series," he continues. "There are hints about his home life which Alex drags out of him, so we learn about his state of mind and where he's at from their conversations."

"The big thing about Gene is that he's an enigma, so the less you know about him the better and it's important to keep that, otherwise he's blown as a character."

It's always a worry with our favourite TV shows that they'll go on too long. Ricky Gervais knew when to call it a day with The Office and Extras, just as John Cleese famously did with Fawlty Towers years previously.

"We all felt Life On Mars had run its natural course, we didn't want to start repeating ourselves. But for Gene, he's become a bit of an iconic character and I was happy to carry on playing him for a bit longer."



ASHES TO ASHES
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PROPERTY NEWS

Housing stock triples in value over decade

A SURVEY from Halifax estimates that the value of the UK's private housing stock rose by 9 per cent – almost £320 billion – in 2007 to a record £4 trillion (the equivalent of £4,000bn).

This means the value of the housing stock has more than tripled over the past decade, rising by 208 per cent from £1.3 trillion in 1997.

The value of the private housing stock was 3.4 times the value of outstanding mortgage debt of £1.2 trillion at the end of 2007.

Ten years ago, private sector housing assets were three times higher than mortgage debt.

In 2007 the value of housing assets in the south was £2.2bn compared with £1.8bn of housing assets in the north.

The south's share of the UK housing assets held steady at 55 per cent in 2007, while the share of the North was 45 per cent.

However, the north-south housing wealth gap has narrowed over the past five years. The south accounted for 61 per cent in 2002 and the north for 39 per cent.

Interest cut a balm to mortgage holders

LAST week's Bank of England interest rate cut has been cautiously welcomed by the property market – amid calls for further reductions early in the spring.

At its monthly meeting the monetary policy committee announced the base rate of interest would be cut by 25 basis points – down from 5.5 per cent to 5.25 per cent.

The move is likely to act as a balm to pressurised mortgage holders, according to some commentators.

"This is great news, particularly following the latest price report from the Halifax, which confirmed prices held steady again in January," said Peter Ford, regional director for Townends estate agents.

"Money is now becoming cheaper to borrow, which means buyers who previously could not have afforded to buy, may well be tempted back into the market and those with properties to sell are able to be more flexible – which will help with their onward purchase."

Falling prices 'are just a market correction'

■ BY NICK AMES

PROPERTY prices are slowly falling across the UK, with new figures revealing the average fall-off was 0.3 per cent in January.

The report, compiled by the Centre for Economics and Business Research, draws on data from a variety of sources to provide the most accurate snapshot of the UK property market.

Property experts Chesterton organise the poll, which takes on board all the data available across the market. It is regarded as the most accurate barometer of trends by most participants in the field.

Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of CEBR, said: "The data is confirming UK house prices are edging down. Our current economic view suggests that it is unlikely there will be a house price collapse."

"It is more likely that there will be a re-adjustment in the market, following high house price growth of more than 5 per cent per annum over the last decade."

Mr McWilliams said the slowdown in the housing market can be seen across the board, for all property types and in all regions, but the top end of the market continues to grow robustly.

Areas such as Kensington and Chelsea rose more than 24 per cent in the last year – more than four times that recorded in most other parts of the country.

However, the average price of a property held by a retired person dropped for the first time since June 2005.

Robert Bartlett, Chesterton chief executive officer, said: "While the figures show property prices fell slightly over January, the reality is that prices are undergoing a correction."

"We believe property prices will remain flat to negative two per cent through to spring, but with a reduced number of transactions."

"London's high-end property market has continued to achieve strong growth with substantial prices still being realised."

"Property analysts will be watching very closely over the month ahead to see what impact the non-domicile tax changes will have on the property market and the wider economy."

"I think these figures show that now is the perfect time to buy. There is a wide range of properties on the market and bargains to be had."



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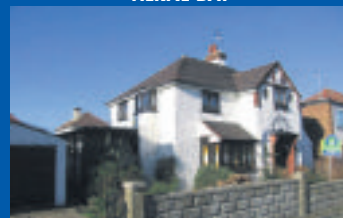
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ref: 527261473

£275,000 SHEERNESS ☎ 01795 668373**EASTCHURCH****COURT TREE DRIVE**

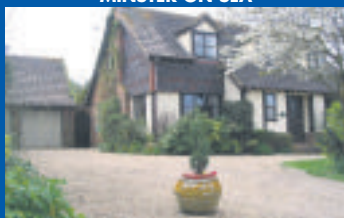
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ref: 527261631

£430,000 SHEERNESS ☎ 01795 668373**MINSTER ON SEA**

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ref: 527143713

£320,000 SHEERNESS ☎ 01795 668373**MINSTER ON SEA****WOODLAND DRIVE**

- Individual Detached House • 4/5 Bedrooms
- Lounge/dining Room • Kitchen/breakfast Room

ref: 527057414

£365,000 SHEERNESS ☎ 01795 668373**MINSTER ON SEA****CHERRY TREE KENT AVENUE**

- Modern Detached Home • 4 Bedrooms • Lounge
- With Cathedral Ceiling • Kitchen/Breakfast Room

ref: 527239731

£330,000 SHEERNESS ☎ 01795 668373**LEYSDOWN-ON-SEA****THE BERRIES WING ROAD**

- Detached Five Bedroom House • Lounge/Dining
- Room • Kitchen/Breakfast Room • 4/5 Bedrooms

ref: 527237049

£465,000 SHEERNESS ☎ 01795 668373**KEMSLEY****REAMS WAY**

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ref: 527260295

£129,500 SITTINGBOURNE ☎ 01795 429771**MILTON REGIS****HIGH STREET**

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ref: 527216042

£129,950 SITTINGBOURNE ☎ 01795 429771**MILTON REGIS****PHILLIPPA COURT**

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- Access Of Milton High Street • Lounge/Dining Room

ref: 527247320

£125,000 SITTINGBOURNE ☎ 01795 429771**SITTINGBOURNE****REALGAR COURT**

- Corner Terrace House • Two Bedrooms • Lounge
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ref: 527218387

£145,000 SITTINGBOURNE ☎ 01795 429771**KEMSLEY****AYLEWYN GREEN**

- Terraced Property • Two Bedrooms • First Floor
- Bathroom / W.C. • Kitchen/Breakfast Room

ref: 527212249

£139,995 SITTINGBOURNE ☎ 01795 429771**WHITSTABLE****GRIMTHORPE AVENUE**

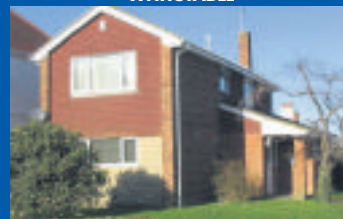
- Five Bedrooms • Detached House • Two Reception
- Rooms • Integral Garage & Parking • Sea Views

ref: 527262596

£329,995 WHITSTABLE ☎ 01227 770490**WHITSTABLE****GORDON ROAD**

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Herne Bay

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☎ 01227 367161

Whitstable

21 Oxford Street

☎ 01227 770490

Sheerness

2 Bank Street

☎ 01795 668373



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CENTRAL, HERNE BAY £159,995

Warden assisted First Floor rear self-contained one bedroom apartment close to all amenities and sea front. Features include communal Sitting room with Kitchenette, Laundry Room, outside seating area and parking facilities. Fitted carpets, curtains and light fittings.



GREENHILL, HERNE BAY £209,995

Vacant detached 2 bedroom bungalow located on a wide corner plot on the south side of town close to 'bus route and within walking distance of local shops. Features gas central heating and double glazing.



HOATH NR CANTERBURY £249,995

An opportunity to live in a semi-rural location is available with this 3 bedroom semi-detached house situated in the Hoath district within easy access to popular local restaurant & Public House. Within reasonable driving distance to Herne Bay, Thanet areas & the City of Canterbury. Standing on a good size plot the property offers good potential with some improvements required. Features country views, double glazing and oil fired central heating system. No onward chain.



BELTINGE, HERNE BAY £309,500

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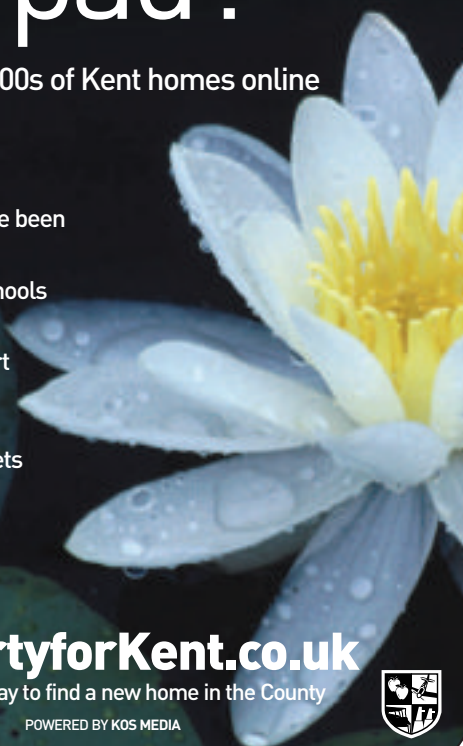
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MOTORS NEWS



Marathon man Francis

INVICTA Motors Ford technician Francis Davis is hunting sponsorship for the London Marathon on April 13.

Canterbury-based Francis is running the equivalent of half marathons weekly as training but, having completed the gruelling London challenge before, is well aware of the dreaded 'wall' that affects most entrants.

"You just have to keep going and a good cause helps," said Francis, who needs £1,500 to cover entry and would love to add more for his chosen charity, Asthma UK.

To back Francis' marathon, call him at Invicta 01227 762777.



Omissions are big deal

BARRETT'S Land Rover in Ashford plans to offset all CO2 emissions produced by the dealership throughout 2008.

The Orbital Park dealership made the pledge as part of Land Rover's wider 'Our Planet' initiative highlighting the brand's bid to cut its impact on the environment.

Dealer principal Mark Nicholas said: "Our contribution will build on other projects around the world that Land Rover is investing in and I would encourage everybody to visit www.landrover.co.uk/our-planet and see for themselves what initiatives Land Rover is involved in."



Canterbury site comes up trumps with award

DUTTON Forshaw in Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, has won a coveted Sales Centre of the Year trophy from Dodge Chrysler Jeep.

The site's dealer principal Lynne Kennard said: "2007 was one of the busiest years ever for our all-American brands, thanks to the launch of six new models that encompassed everything from 4x4s (Jeep Patriot pictured) and SUVs to saloons and an estate car."

The award is judged nationwide on customer satisfaction, new and used sales and overall dealership operation.



JUST AN ILLUSION: With the seats removed it is easy to see why Skoda's Roomster will appeal to the outdoor type giving ample room for three bikes and masses of gear

Roomster with a view changes look of MPVs

ONCE derided for Iron Curtain flakiness, everyone should know by now that Skoda produces robust yet keenly priced VW clones.

But the distinctive Roomster MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) shows Skoda starting to do its own thing. This in-house amalgamation uses front underpinnings from a Fabia (VW Polo) married to the rear of an Octavia (VW Golf).

The result is a 'car of two halves' in more than the engineering sense: firstly a car-like front and tidier handling rather than the higher driving position and potential wooliness on cornering of many standard MPVs. Secondly, a rear end that seems as capacious as rivals like the Vauxhall Meriva.

Admittedly, there is less visual harmony between the two halves; the narrow aircraft-style cockpit windows look incongruous against the huge glazed rear 'living room'.

The interior is more typical Skoda: quality mainstream with durable materials, well arranged controls and switches – including an iPod socket. It might lack French sparkle and

ROAD TEST

SKODA ROOMSTER

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

flair, but should last and maintain Skoda's superiority in customer satisfaction polls.

The steering is nicely weighted for parking and driving pleasure and the car not only grips well on cornering, but also maintains the flatter profile that makes it such a powerful rival to conventional small MPVs.

Refinement is not its strongest suit though and tends to be amplified by the big airy rear cabin. 'Varioflex' rear seating divides into three individual folding and removable units, though the outer pair are quite hefty, while the middle one is child-size only and more likely to be folded down as an armrest with cupholders.

With seats removed, you see why the Roomster appeals to sporting types – three bikes and masses of gear can be carried safely and securely. If you love the outdoor life, a panoramic sunroof (£550) will let in more light and it has highly effective blinds.

Pick of the engines? The 1.9-litre VW turbodiesel version and the 1.4 petrol as tested here. Performance of the latter is not blistering, but delivers excellent fuel consumption even if you exploit the car's handling talents. The 1.2 petrol entry option is too gutless.



SEE MOTORSTV FOR MORE ROAD TESTS BY STEVE LOADER @

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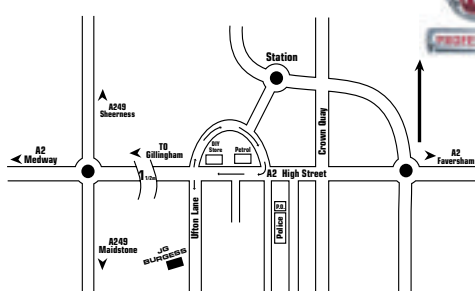


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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FAMILY HOLDALLS

MPVs have stolen sales from more traditional sectors of the motor market, but do people gain enough extra space at the cost of less driver satisfaction, higher purchase prices and boring styling? Fact is, you can have much of what a used MPV offers by checking out second-hand conventional estate cars. Admittedly, one of our contenders here is seen more as an MPV, but we make no apology – the well-built Ford C-Max drives so well that it feels more like a car and yet has MPV space and flexibility.

carsfor Kent.co.uk

FORD C-MAX



HISTORY will show that this was a pivotal model for Ford. The C-Max has proved to be the first 'driver's MPV' even if it was criticised for lacking the seven seats of the rival Vauxhall Zafira. However, the virtues of looks, excellent build and excellent yet affordable high spec models can be added to good handling. With jointly developed and smoother diesels from Ford's partnership with Peugeot-Citroën, it can also compete with anything for smoothness, economy and power.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SKODA OCTAVIA



If you have not yet woken to used Skoda bargains, smell the coffee now with one of the best – the stylish estate spin-off from the brand's own wake-up model, the Octavia. Mark 1 and 2s are now on the used market and diesels are the pick, though petrols can be bargains and the scorching vRS will put a smile on the face. The Octavia estate's real ace though is space within the modest dimensions of a VW Golf-based platform.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL VECTRA



YOU could be forgiven for thinking we would recommend the Vectra estate here, but that is a truly massive car using a longer wheelbase. Its hatchback sister is more plentiful and deceptively spacious. With a huge rear opening, large boot and folding rear seats, this is all the load lugger most families need and an SRi or similar spec with alloys looks good without costing huge amounts. Fiat-derived 1.9 diesel examples are the pick for low down power and economy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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156, 1.8 T SPARK, 2000 (v), 67759 miles, red, 4 door saloon, pas, abs, air bag, alarm, immobiliser, stereo, metallic burgandy, Enly £2795, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

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TT 1.8, QUATTRO, 2000, silver, 57947 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

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CONTINENTAL GT, 2005, umbrin red met with saddle leather interior, 28000 miles, £54950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 316i SE 3dr, alarm, remote central locking, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, radio cassette, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, silver, 71000 miles, £6995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £14950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, 1.4 SX 24637, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 0 miles, £5995, Calfyns Turnbridge Wells Vauxhall, Turnbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 1.4, 701639, finished in poly silver with black cloth interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £7495, Calfyns chevrolet i wells, Turnbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 1.4, 702639, finished in sports blue with black cloth interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £7495, Calfyns chevrolet i wells, Turnbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, S 1.2, 703639, finished in poly silver with black interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £6195, Calfyns chevrolet i wells, Turnbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

CROSSFIRE, 3.2 auto coupe, 2004, black with two tone grey leather interior, 17000 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LX, 1995 (n), automatic, 5 door saloon, metallic green coachwork with contrasting grey velour trim, 1pas, air bags, original hi-fi, only 1 owner from new, metallic green, low mileage miles, £1695, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C2, 1.1i Design 3dr, 2006, blue, 5000 miles, £6295, Wilmonds Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i LX 3dr, 2005, yellow, 10 miles, £5995, Wilmonds Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i Design 3dr, 2007, silver, 10 miles, £5995, Wilmonds Ashford, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i SX 5dr, 2006, black, 4232 miles, £7295, Wilmonds Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.1i Desire 5dr, 2005, special edition, white, 10 miles, £6495, Wilmonds Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6i 16v Exclusive 5dr, 2002, mauve, 41000 miles, £5995, Wilmonds Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2004, blue, 21924 miles, £6495, Wilmonds Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2007, silver, 1000 miles, £8295, Wilmonds Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 1.6 Style 3dr Auto, adjustable seats, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:7, blue, 468 miles, £7990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0845 3891135 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Zetec S 3dr, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, passenger airbag, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats. Insurance group:7, black, 7355 miles, £3990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0845 3891135 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0 ST 3dr, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats. Insurance group:13, red, 8416 miles, £3990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0845 3891135 (TRADE)

FOCUS C-MAX, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, central locking, driver airbag, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. Insurance group:7, blue, 38801 miles, £7490, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0845 3891135 (TRADE)

FOCUS C-MAX, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. Insurance group:7, blue, 26500 miles, £3490, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0845 3891135 (TRADE)

FOCUS C-MAX, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. Insurance group:6, grey, 20789 miles, £6990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0845 3891135 (TRADE)

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GETZ, GSI, 04, tax jul 08, vgc, abs, alarm, cd player, c/locking, e/windows, p/steering, 1 years manufacturers warranty, silver, 22000 miles, £3490, Kent, 07841 872032 (PRIVATE)

AMICA, 1.1i Cdx, 559649, hyundai amica 1.1i cdx 5dr hyundai hyundai Ashford drake & fletcher red, 2006, 8350 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, red, £4995, Drake and Fletcher Hyundai, Ashford, 0845 389 1214 (TRADE)

AMICA, 1.1tdx, 127649, hyundai amica 1.1tdx hyundai hyundai Ashford drake & fletcher red, 2006, 7950 miles, 1 doors, 1 previous owners, red, £4990, Drake and Fletcher Hyundai, Ashford, 0845 389 1214 (TRADE)

AMICA, GSI, 2001, yellow, 9947 miles, £3295, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, SE, foldback electric mirrors, bluetooth phone connectivity, alloy top size spare, headlamp power wash, heated front screen, heated front seats, cd tuner, chrome grille surround, chrome window surrounds, cruise control, cup holder, dynamic stability control, electric heated door mirrors, electronic park brake, midnight, 6000 miles, £27790.00, Barretts Jaguar (Canterbury), Canterbury, 0845 3079766 (TRADE)

KIA

CCARENS, 2.0 16v CRDi LX 5dr Auto, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, automatic electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, due in sun, aluminium silver, 33000 miles, £6490, Kent TDI Centre, Maidstone, 01622 750022 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 2 dr, cargo cover, passive engine immobilisation, permanent four-wheel drive, power-assisted steering, rear mudflaps, rubber floor trim, front and rear beam axle, coil spring suspension, deep section fully boxed chassis frame, lockable front centre differential, calms blue, 1550 miles, £14995.000, barretts land rover (Ashford), Ashford, 0845 3709763 (TRADE)

LEXUS

LS430, 2002, titanium frost met with Suffolk beige leather, 104000 miles, £9950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, Gsi 5dr, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear armrest, alloy wheels, blue, 52700 miles, £2995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

323, Lxi 5dr, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, rear spoiler, central locking, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, radio cassette, twin air bags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, red, 30000 miles, £4495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MERCEDES

C CLASS, C220 Cdi, 503649, mercedes-benz c class c220 cdi 3dr auto maza maida Maidstone drake & fletcher red, 2001, 44000 miles, automatic, diesel, 3 doors, 2 previous owners, red, £3499, Drake and Fletcher Mazda, Maidstone, 0845 130 3275 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, 1.8, 1997, met green, 41420 miles, £2795, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, 10037578, alarm, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, half leather, head restraints, lumbar support, sports seats, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, radio cassette, alloy wheels, silver green, 26612 miles, £4495, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

MGTF, 2003, alarm alloy wheels drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors front electric windows front head restraints heated door mirrors immobiliser pas radio/cassette remote central locking sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment, blue, 23827 miles, £5995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

TF, 115 Sports, 28853218, alarm, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, remote central locking, power steering, electric front windows, cloth upholstery, head restraints, sports seats, abs, air bag, metallic paintwork, cd player, uk specification, uk supplied, 15" alloys, blue, 9750 miles, £6300, Lifestyle Ford Turnbridge Wells, 0844 8446514 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6 3dr, fp54gao, multi-disc cd player, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, stereo, cd player, 15" alloys, pure silver black ro, 57042 miles, £3990, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

PEUGEOT 306, R reg, 3-door, 2 tr XSI Blue, 120,000 miles, MoT, tax, recent cambelt, £1,100 ono. Tel: 01773 862741 (PRIVATE)

206, gti, 2002, met blue with black leather, 74508 miles, £4695, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

306, 1.6 Meridian (AC), 1997, insurance group 5.3 owners, diablo red, 74000 miles, £1689, A.1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

306, 1998, green, 67509 miles, £1795, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £34950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BOXSTER, 3.2s, 2002, rain forest green with nephrite soft tufted leather, 71000 miles, £13950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

PROTON

PERSONA, 1.5 GLSi Saloon 4d 1466cc auto, s 1999, electric windows, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, sunroof, remote mirrors, radio cassette, green, miles, £1995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.2 5dr Auto, remote central locking, power steering, air conditioning, metallic paintwork, sunroof, immobiliser, colour coded body, air bag, electric windows, cd player, uk supplied, aluminium silver, 33000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CLIO, 16v, 1993, blue, 125200 miles, £7700, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

MEGANE, Scenic Expression 16v 5dr, 303461, remote central locking, immobiliser, cd player, electric windows, power steering, air conditioning, abs, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, radio, rear wash/wipe, uk supplied, black, 49000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MEGANE, Cabriolet 16v, 125461, full leather, power steering, electric windows, power hood, central locking, remote central locking, metallic paintwork, stereo, uk specification, 16" alloys, blue, 80000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SEAT

ALHAMBRA, 2.0 TDI PD Reference 7 Seat 5dr, 120462127, abs, air bag, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, ink blue met, 37700 miles, £12499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, SE TDI, power steering, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, head restraints, immobiliser, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, stereo, uk supplied, aluminium silver, 89000 miles, £6999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, 2.0 Tdi Pd Stylance 7 Seat, seat alhambra 2.0 tdi pd stylance 7 seat 5dr hyundai hyundai Ashford drake & fletcher grey, 2006, 18521 miles, manual, diesel, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, grey, £14490, Drake and Fletcher Hyundai, Ashford, 0845 389 1214 (TRADE)

SUBARU

FORESTER, 2.0 X, locking wheel nuts, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restraints, climate control, cd player, radio, uk specification, uk supplied, 16" alloys, 4x4, dark grey, 10 miles, £2495, Lifestyle Subaru Turnbridge Wells, Turnbridge Wells, 0844 8446514 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

WAGON R, Special, 53/2003, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, claron radio/cd system with removable security fascia, power assisted steering, 5 speed gearbox, driver, metallic blue, 32000 miles, £3550, Kent, 01943 840944 (PRIVATE)

SUZUKI JIMNY J1X, 09/2000, 1.2 p auto 4x4 estate red 45,000 miles, £2495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

ALTO, GL, 2005, red, 14970 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 04/2004, power assisted steering alloy wheels fog lights cd player full service history 1061cc 16v, met black, 18000 miles, £3, 995, Chertlon Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 07/2004, 1061cc 16v power assisted steering central locking full service history, bright red, 29500 miles, £3, 695, Chertlon Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

GRAND VITARA, 09/2003, 1590cc 16v swb 4x4 power assisted steering central locking cd player full service history, met red, 26000 miles, £5, 395, Chertlon Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, 2006, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs alloy wheels drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment trip computer, star silver, 11402 miles, £10495, WJ King Vauxhall, Dartford, 01322 227581 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 2007, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels cloth seat trim drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser isofix child seat anchor points lumbar support pas passenger airbag radio/cd remote central locking service indicator side airbags space saver spare wheel sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment traction control trip computer, star silver, 0 miles, £11695, WJ King Vauxhall, Bexleyheath, 020 8303 2299 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

POLO, FOX, 1992, vw polo fox 92 greg metallic low mileage 38000 great condition new cambelt cd changer remote lunarround full service history mot, met grey, 38318 miles, £500, Sevenoaks Kent, 01732 462536 (PRIVATE)

BETTLE, 8v, immobiliser, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, heated seats, height adjustable seat, sports seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, abs, side air bags, twin air bags, colour coded body, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, power hood, radio cassette, yellow, 15000 miles, £3990, Ar Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

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The position will involve driving the school minibus and be subject to full CRB and Occupational Health checks.

Application by letter with CV, including the names and contact details of two referees to Mrs T Davies, School Business Manager as above or by email to personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
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Children's Palliative Care Support Worker - Social Work Support Service

Required 25 hours per week to assist in providing systems of psychosocial support to families, children and young people referred to the Demelza service.

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- Act as a point of liaison and reference with other voluntary and statutory services
- Contribute to quality systems and assist in the development of new initiatives to meet needs

You must :-

- Understand the many challenges and issues facing the children and families
- Undertake home visits so full driving licence/willingness to travel essential
- Flexible and adaptable
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- Qualifications or experience relevant to social work/family support desirable

Salary range £16,500 - £17,500 pro rata, generous annual leave, pension and excellent working environment.

Closing Date 5th March, 2008

For an information pack call our Recruitment line on 01795 845295 or for an informal chat call John Adams on 01795 845229.

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Bligh Sure Start Children's Centre
Bligh Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 2XJ
Phone: 01634 710154
Email: office@bligh-inf.medways.sch.uk

Children and Families Service Manager Ref: EDS/963

Grade PO2. Salary £30,598 - £39,258 per annum.
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Bligh Sure Start Children's Centre is looking for a special person to complete the leadership team. We wish to appoint a community services manager who can drive forward our vision to ensure that every child is given the very best start in life. You will need to be able to work in partnership with parents and carers and bring together a range of partners and organisations, in order to meet the needs of young children and their families. With a degree or equivalent qualification in health, social work, education, community work or a similar field, you must be able to lead a multi-agency service, inspiring change that will really make a difference to young children and their families.

Our Centre is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. It expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

For an informal discussion about this exciting opportunity, please call Celia Toone, Centre Manager on 01634 710154.

For an application pack phone: 01634 710154 or email: office@bligh-inf.medways.sch.uk
Closing date: 15 February, 2008.

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Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 12 noon, Friday 29 February 2008

Interviews and assessment process will take place on: Wednesday 19 March 2008

We prefer applications on-line. For further details of this position and all our latest opportunities and to apply on-line, visit our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs or e-mail jobs@canterbury.gov.uk. If you are unable to access the internet, telephone 01227 862 072 (24 hour answerphone).

We can supply application packs in Braille or large print format if required

We are an equal opportunities employer.

Putting people first



INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE



achievement development experience employability

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010.

Estates & Building Services Manager

Salary: £44,149 – £49,875 37 hrs per week
Post ref: EBSM1

Are you experienced in Estates and Building Services Management?
Do you have the energy and drive to shape the future?

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to ensure that College sites are fully utilised, maintained and enhanced, to provide an optimum learning and working environment for all users. You will have the opportunity to develop the College's property and accommodation strategies.

You will lead on the preparation of maintenance and small buildings works programmes and schedules, health and safety strategy and policy, and ensure the provision and maintenance of effective fire precautions, security systems and safety arrangements.

You will develop and manage the College's energy management policy, advise on the use of professional services in connection with estates services, and will take responsibility for buildings & grounds maintenance and security for the insurance of the premises and assets.

To be successful, you will have a relevant professional qualification such as RICS, RIBA, MBIM, or MIMechE, as well as professional qualifications in the area of Estates Management. You will be able to demonstrate considerable and successful estates management experience, with experience of managing change, a commitment to continuous improvement as well as having direct experience of line managing staff, budgets and resource management.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. The closing date for the above post is Wednesday 20 February at 12 noon. Interviews will be held on Thursday 28th February 2008.

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

Allhallows Leisure Park RECRUITMENT OPEN DAY Saturday 16 February 2008 9.30am till noon



Open Interviews to be held at the park, please bring your CV with you

Vacancies available for: Housekeeping, Bar Team, Wardens, Administration, Holiday Sales, Cleaners and other positions available

Please contact Trina Davis ASAP,
Allhallows Leisure Park, Allhallows, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9QD
Tel: 01634 270385 Fax: 01634 270081
Email: trina.davis@bourne-leisure.co.uk



WALMER SCIENCE COLLEGE

Salisbury Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7QJ
Telephone : 01304 375212 Fax : 01304 380766
e-mail : admin@walmerschool.co.uk
Headteacher : Simon Heaton BSc (Hons) NPQH
MIXED 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL 800 ON ROLL

REQUIRED FOR 21st APRIL 2008 or 1st SEPTEMBER 2008 ASSISANT HEADTEACHER (L11-L15 - Subject to Review)

The main focus of this post will be the use of new technologies across the curriculum to enhance teaching and learning. You will play a significant role in formulating, then implementing the school's vision for ICT as part of the BSF programme. As well as leading on the use of new technologies across the curriculum, you will also be responsible for:

- Line management of a number of departments;
- Line management of the Network Manager;
- KS4 Options Process;
- Production and updating of annual timetable;
- Supporting a Head of House;
- Oversight of the examinations system;
- Other responsibilities to be negotiated.

The successful applicant will:-

- have experience of leading and managing other staff;
- have a clear vision of how new technologies can be used to enhance teaching and learning;
- be a creative teacher with the ability to motivate students of all abilities;
- be enthusiastic and energetic;
- have a commitment to raising standards;
- have a commitment to providing a first class learning experience for all our students.

Applications from all subject areas welcome. Walmer Science College is a good school with outstanding features (Ofsted 2007).

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Windsor at the school

Closing date : 22nd February 2008



We value diversity in our workforce



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



HARBOUR SCHOOL

Elms Vale Road, Dover CT17 9PS
Tel: 01304 201964
Fax: 01304 225000
E-Mail: office@harbour.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Tony Berresford, M.Ed.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Kent Scheme, Band 3,
Points 6-11 + SEN Allowance
£13,222 - £15,440 (pro-rata)
30hrs per week, term time only
Start: ASAP

The Governors are seeking to appoint a Teaching Assistant who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their own initiative, to join our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

The successful candidate will work within the secondary phase supporting pupils with a range of behaviour and learning needs.

Experience of working in a school environment with special needs pupils in particular, would be an advantage but not essential.

For more information and an application pack, please contact the school office.

Closing date: Tuesday 19th February 2008

Interviews: Wednesday 5th March 2008

The school requires a completed application form - no CV's accepted.

**** No Agencies Or ****
**** Advertising Companies Please ****



Hersden Community Primary School

Assistant Head Teacher

with SENCo & Numeracy Co-ordinator • Grade: L 1- 5

Closing Date: 15th February 2008 (applications must be submitted by midday)

Interviews: 28th February 2008 • Start Date for post: 2nd June 2008
(The post would initially be in our Yr R/1 class)

Please come to visit the school and discuss the post further or contact.
Alison Goodman (Head Teacher), Hersden Community Primary School
Shaftesbury Road, Hersden, Kent. CT3 4HS
Tel: 01227 710414 • Fax: 01227 712162
Email: headteacher@hersden.kent.sch.uk

Appointment to this position will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



Trading as Education Direct, The Education Company Ltd is an established and successful education sector marketing company based in Rochester.

Our client base includes most of the major educational publishers, charities and corporate bodies who promote their products and services to the education sector. We are a full service provider with products and services specifically designed for the world of education.

Due to continued expansion and internal development, we are looking to recruit the following important permanent full-time position based in our Rochester office:

Direct Marketing Sales Executive

Reporting to the Sales Manager, your main responsibility will be selling data, mailing solutions, telesales, research and data analyst services to educational suppliers.

Key Skills

- Experience with dealing with customers up to Board level
- Strong, proven customer service skills
- Must have an enquiring and innovative mind
- Autonomy and self-motivated
- Target focused
- Proven track record
- Excellent decision-making skills
- Excellent negotiation skills
- Computer literate, including Microsoft Office
- Team player
- Industry experience useful but not essential

Basic Salary - £18,000 OTE - £23,500-25,500

To apply, please send your CV and/or full details of your qualifications and experience to:-

David Simons
Sales Manager
Education Direct
Riverside House
Sir Thomas Longley Road
Rochester
ME2 4FN

or by email to davidsimons@education.co.uk



MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Brompton Westbrook

Foundation Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required from: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 3 March 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Claire Knight
Brompton Westbrook
Kings Bastion,
Brompton
Gillingham
Kent
ME7 5DQ
Telephone - (01634) 844152
Email heyje002@medway.org.uk

Riverside Primary School

Key Stage 1 teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 15 February 2008
To apply/more information
School Office
Riverside Primary School
St Edmunds Way
Rainham
Kent
ME8 8ET
Telephone - (01634) 338700
Email office@riverside.medway.sch.uk

Skinner Street Primary School

Year 5 teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and temporary
Term of Contract: Maternity Cover
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 19 February 2008
To apply/more information
School Office
Skinner Street Primary School
Skinner Street
Gillingham
Kent
ME7 1LG
Telephone - (01634) 850213
Email office@skinnerst.medway.sch.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Rainham Mark Grammar School

Teacher of Design Technology -
Electronic Products
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 February 2008
To apply/more information
School Office
Rainham Mark Grammar School
Pump Lane, Gillingham, Kent ME8 7AJ
Telephone - (01634) 364151
Email chile001@medway.org.uk

Chatham Grammar School for Girls

RE teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required from: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 March 2008

To apply/more information

Emma Chilmaid
Chatham Grammar School for Girls
Rainham Road
Chatham, Kent ME5 7EH
Telephone - (01634) 851262
Email chile001@medway.org.uk

Rainham Mark Grammar School

Teacher of English
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 February 2008

To apply/more information

School Office
Rainham Mark Grammar School
Pump Lane
Gillingham, Kent ME8 7AJ
Telephone - (01634) 364151
Email office@rainhammark.medway.sch.uk

Chatham Grammar School for Girls

Teacher of Design Technology
(Textiles)
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 15 February 2008

To apply/more information

The School Office
Chatham Grammar School for Girls
Rainham Road
Chatham
Kent ME5 7EH
Telephone - (01634) 851262
Email chile001@medway.org.uk

Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School

History Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Contract: 2 Terms
Required From: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Ms Jacqueline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School,
Maldstone Road,
Rochester,
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
E-mail harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Chatham South

English Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Maureen Chipperfield
Chatham South
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Email chipm002@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of English
Job Ref: Eteach/kmc/010208/eng
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road
Hoo, Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of Geography
Job Ref: Eteach/kmc/geog/010208
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of ICT
Eteach/kmc/ict
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of Maths
Eteach/kmc/sci/010208/Maths
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road
Hoo, Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of Science
Eteach/kmc/sci/010208
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent

Required from: April or September 2008

Closing date: 25 February 2008

To apply/more information

Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo, Rochester
Kent
ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of English and Media
Eteach/010208/kmc/Media&Eng
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent
ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of Business Studies
Eteach/kmc/business/010208
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent
ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of Art
Eteach/kmc/010208/art
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008

To apply/more information

Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Head of Department

The Robert Napier
Head of Sixth Form
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1d (£6829)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 26 February 2008
To apply/more information
Mr Paul Jackson
Deputy Head
The Robert Napier School
Third Avenue
Gillingham
Kent ME7 2LX
Telephone - (01634) 851157

Chatham South

Head of ICT
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR c
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Maureen Chipperfield
Chatham South
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham, Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Email chipm002@medway.org.uk

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Rivermead

Teacher of General Subjects
Salary: MPS/UPS + SEN Allowance
£1818
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 March 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Karen Watkin
Office Manager
Rivermead
Forge Lane
Gillingham, Kent ME7 1UG
Telephone - (01634) 338348
Email office@rivermead.medway.sch.uk

www.medway.gov.uk/teachingcareers

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

achievement development experience employability

Sheppey College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Placement Officer – Childcare

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: SHPC/KOS

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Administration

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: SH/Admin/KOS

Beauty

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: SH/Beauty/KOS

Hair

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: SH/Hair/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is
Monday 18 February 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



achievement development experience employability

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Lecturer Beauty Therapy and Holistic Therapies

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.
Post Ref: 02/43/KOS

Head Chef

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,284 per annum.
Post Ref: HC1/KOS

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Basic Skills (at Canterbury and Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/BS/KOS

Hairdressing

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/Hair/KOS

Health & Social Care

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/HSC/KOS

Business

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/Bus/KOS

Management & CPD courses

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/MB&CPD/KOS

Accounting

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/AC/KOS

Law

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/Law/KOS

ICT and Computing

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/ICT/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday
18 February 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

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achievement development experience employability

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Supply NVQ Assessors are required in the following areas:

Cleaning and Support Services

Various hours available, salary range £17,640 – £25,294 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: NVQ/CS/KOS

Business Administration, Customer Service & Team Leading

Various hours available, salary range £17,640 – £25,294 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: NVQ/BUS/KOS

Performance Review Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £23,536 per annum. Interviews to be held on 29th February 2008.

Post Ref: PRO/KOS

Marketing & Communications Assistant

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,464 per annum.
Post Ref: 08/23/KOS

Media and Public Relations Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,674 per annum.
Post Ref: 08/24/KOS

Publications and Design Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,674 per annum.
Post Ref: 08/25/KOS

Temporary Advice and Guidance Co-ordinator

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,674 per annum.
Temporary post not to exceed six months.

Post Ref: 07/97/KOS

Curriculum Support Assistant Construction

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 06/201/KOS

Curriculum Support Assistant Plumbing

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 06/202/KOS

Temporary Senior Administrator for Work Based Learning

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,285 per annum. Temporary post up to 1 May 2009 to cover maternity leave.

Post Ref: ATC1/KOS

Temporary Train to Gain Administrator

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum. Temporary post up to 16 January 2009 to cover maternity leave.

Post Ref: 07/83/KOS

Full Time Cleaners

2 posts at 37 hrs per week, salary £6.10 per hour.

Post Ref: 08/21/KOS

Night Cleaners

Up to 10 posts at 20 hrs per week, salary £6.10 per hour.

Post Ref: 08/22/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 18 February 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer





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We are looking to recruit two highly-driven, confident, self motivated team players, who are able to work under pressure to deadline and target, in our fast-paced and fun recruitment department.

You will be working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. Due to location, you need to have your own transport and a proven track record in sales is preferable.

We offer: OTE £20,000

- Good basic salary
- Performance and revenue related bonuses
- Five weeks holiday a year

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Kent TN25 6SR

www.kentnews.co.uk
www.jobsforkent.co.uk
www.yourkenttv.co.uk



Public Rights Of Way Officer – Network Management

£19,572 - £29,190 per annum. Salary dependent on experience. Progression through the career grade is based on the fulfilment of required competencies

Kings Hill, West Malling

With over 6,700 km of public rights of way, Kent County Council manages the largest network in the country. It also has an excellent national reputation in service delivery and forward thinking, dynamic new initiatives.

The West Kent Public Rights of Way Team is looking for a new officer to join them to manage the Maidstone area network.

Responsible for a specific geographical area of the county, you will undertake a variety of operational duties particularly in respect to the maintenance and protection of public rights of way. A substantial proportion of the area sits within the Kent Downs area of outstanding natural beauty. You will work closely with landowners, local councils and other agencies. A significant proportion of your workload will come from the general public.

The post carries a high-volume workload. You will be able to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology. You will be a team player, have a good sense of humour and be educated to HND/Degree level in a related subject. The post also requires a high level of motivation, a good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and related countryside access issues and excellent organisational and communication skills. **Ref: ER/o8/0005**

Interview date: 18th March 2008.

Day Centre Officer

Starting salary £15,665, with progression through contribution related pay to £20,211 per annum

You will support a group of adults with learning disabilities, in a community gardening project at Cranbrook. Similar projects may be developed in future to cover the High Weald villages, Paddock Wood and Tunbridge Wells.

You will need to have an interest in gardening and be able to work with individuals to develop their gardening skills and travel training as part of promoting their independence and moving on into employment. A knowledge of health and safety and risk assessments is required.

The ability to travel to the rural sites is essential.

You should have experience in supporting people with learning disabilities in the community. An NVQ 3 in care would be an advantage.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are committed to service user and carer involvement and seek to involve service users and carers in our recruitment processes. **Ref: KASS/o8/0023**

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk, or call **0845 8247 904**. Please quote the appropriate reference.

Closing date: 25th February 2008.



A great place to work.
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so neither are our people.

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

Unparalleled Opportunity

Social Worker

**Medway Secure Training Centre
Rochester**

c. £25,000 pa depending on experience

This unparalleled opportunity will see you working with challenging young people of both sexes aged 12 to 17 years in a custodial setting. You will assess their needs on a one to one basis and in groups, encouraging them to work towards a positive future. Your role will see you working as part of a multi-disciplinary team and in partnership with external agencies, to meet the needs of young people within the centre and upon release.

To be successful, you will be enthusiastic, resourceful, approachable, calm and committed to the support and rehabilitation of young offenders. You will also have a DipSW or CQSW qualification and ideally experience of working with young people. Whether you have recently qualified or are looking for a change of direction in your career, this role will enable you to draw on the vast experience of our team and further develop your skills.

In addition to the financial rewards and benefits, you will receive huge job satisfaction, support, training and career opportunities in an organisation that develops its staff to their full potential and believes in promotion from within.

Our success at Medway relies on our positive and friendly team which is based on mutual trust, an open mind, honesty and integrity. If you feel you could make a real impact and would like to join us, please send your CV and a covering letter quoting ref: KOSSW2 to: Kairen Stammers, HR Adviser, Medway STC, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3YB or email: recruiting@gsiglobal.com by 17th February 2008.

Please note that this vacancy is subject to a 10 year checkable history and the strict vetting standards set by Rebound and the Secretary of State for the Home Office and is not covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.



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Children's Services

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2. Guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the publishers shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy in the printing of an advertisement or by the total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any publication in which an advertisement is scheduled to appear. In no case shall the total liability of the publisher for any misprint, error or omission exceed the price charged by the publisher for that advertisement.
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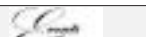
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with Business Editor
TONY PATEY

BUSINESS BRIEFS

The whole package

ONE of Europe's biggest corrugated packaging plants is being created by linking up two next-door paper mills in a deal worth about £104 million.

DS Smith, the international packaging giant and office products wholesaler, which owns one of the mills at Kemsley, near Sittingbourne, is taking over the other, owned by M-real Corporation, part of the Finnish forestry industry giant Metsäliitto Group.

DS Smith's St Regis business employs 270 at its mill, and M-real employs 282 at the New Thames office paper mill.

The financial side of the deal is made up of £60 million cash, pension payment of £7 million, and about a further £37 million to modify production for high-quality lightweight recycled CCM from next January.

Take up the challenge

THE deadline for entries to the Kent Innovation Challenge – and your chance to grab £20,000 – is fast approaching.

The challenge is open to entrepreneurs and businesses with an innovative product or service, but entries must be received by Monday, February 18. See www.kentinovationchallenge.co.uk.

Among the many prizes are: free rent for a year at one of the three enterprise hubs in Kent and filming and production of a video to the value of £5,000.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Discover how business is booming in Kent's potato capital of Thanet

Pricing should be more transparent

■ BY TONY PATEY

THE Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association says customers buying petrol or diesel should be told how much tax they are paying in the process – buying 50 litres at the pumps costs £20 in fuel and a staggering £33 in tax.

The FTA would like to see fuel receipts issued at filling stations detailing the price of the petrol or diesel itself, the fuel duty and the VAT.

The association says the Government's proposed increase in fuel duty of 2p per litre on April 1 should be scrapped and that users should be absolutely clear about the extent of the tax which they are already paying.

The FTA, which represents the transport interests of companies operating more than 220,000 goods vehicles, says the increasing cost of oil, and the huge taxes which are added to it in the UK, impacts on the whole population and is inflationary because everything we use or consume is at some stage transported by road.

The FTA's director of external affairs, Geoff Dossetter, said there should be absolute clarity about the tax element in fuel prices: "With fuel duty at 50.35p per litre and VAT at 17.5 per cent, the cost of a typical fill of 50 litres of fuel at £1.05 per litre works out at £52.50.

"This consists of £19.51 for the fuel, £25.17 for the fuel duty and £7.82 for the VAT. So, for 50 litres at the pump, we pay £19.51 for the fuel plus an eye-watering £32.99 in taxation."

The planned 2p per litre increase comes on top of a 19 per cent, or 14p per litre, increase in the last 12 months.

A third of the operating costs of the heaviest lorries is fuel, and the annual fuel bill for a single 40-tonne artic has increased from £26,456 at the beginning of 2000 to £37,461 in 2007.



NOT SMILING: For every 50 litres of fuel we buy at the pump a massive £33 of the bill goes towards tax



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MARCHING ON: Harry Goodger got his side back into the game at the weekend with a well taken penalty kick

TWO WINS FROM THE TITLE

FOOTBALL

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Norton Sports 3 Coney Hall 1

ANOTHER week another win for Norton Sports, who go into Saturday's clash with contenders Orpington knowing a victory would all but guarantee them a shot at playing in the Kent League next season.

The Swale side are 12 points ahead of second-placed Orpington, although their rivals do have two games in hand. After the weekend's game, Norton may only need to win two of their last five fixtures and considering they have remained unbeaten all season, it is fair to say the title could be wrapped up.

Norton have already applied to the Kent County League to inform them of their wish to be promoted if they win the title this season, and the club has to apply to the Kent League at the beginning of March to join the Premier Division.

The club is likely to have to make drastic changes to the ground to meet the league's requirements, which would include a stand, turnstiles and more importantly floodlights.

Colin Page, chairman of Norton Sports, said he hoped the club could meet the league's requirements, but has not ruled out ground shares with neighbours Faversham or Sittingbourne.

He said: "We have said all along that if going to Sittingbourne was a possibility, we would like it. The Sittingbourne situation is not one viable at the moment though because Maidstone are there. We could also look at Faversham as a potential ground share as well, but I am not sure the Kent League would see that as a good long-term idea. Ideally, we would like to play at Norton Park as financially that would be better for us, but we have to keep all options open."

Ben Taylor's side picked up maximum points against third-placed Coney Hall on Saturday, thanks to goals from Harry Goodger and a brace from Tommy Price.

Semis beckon

FC ENTERTAINER have made it to the semi-final of the Sheppey Sunday League Cup after they thrashed Real Murston 8-2.

Four goals from Paul Teague, a hat-trick from brother Paul and another from brother Scott helped them on their way.

A Matt Bristow effort ensured Bay View are in the quarter-final of the competition as they saw off champions Insport.

In the Junior Charity Cup quarter-final, Kings Head beat Spikes Stars 5-0. Goals were scored by Dave Withington, Chris Toms, Dean Melloy and a John Lovell brace.

In Division One, Fulston Zebras beat JS Athletic 3-2 thanks to a Bradley Pearce double and a strike from James Payne.

Ypres Taven moved up to fourth after their 2-0 victory over Park Regis.

And in Division Two, Bar One drew 2-2 with Leysdown while Dore United also drew by the same score against Towns Club.

Forest cut down

GORE Court ladies 1st XI continued their unbeaten run in 2008 with a good 3-2 win against Waltham Forest.

Court played some good hockey and scored in the first half through Katherine Wood.

Court won several short corners and it was from one of those set plays that Leanne Payne scored a fantastic goal, but the opposition scored just before half-time.

A team talk by coach Paul Surridge, Court started the second half in good form. Some good work from twins Alison and Susan Cox allowed Wood to extend the Sittingbourne side's lead.

Waltham Forest replied again but it was not enough to prevent Court's win.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Adam Miller on how the Gills are dealing with the club's slump in form

A poor performance, but Brickies grind out another home victory

GARY Abbott called it shocking, and for 75 minutes it was.

The game was so lacking in quality the Chipstead directors and officials decided to focus their attention on counting how many cars they could see driving along the new road on the East Hall development. I think it was 12, but who's counting.

As for the game, apart from a bright first five minutes, the Brickies lacked any cut and thrust and still look desperately short of a striker who can keep the ball at their feet.

Too often Sittingbourne's excellent defence, marshalled by Paul Ainsworth and the very impressive Billy Manners, saw the ball come straight back at them. Better opposition would have made them pay.

Not for the first time under Abbott, striker Hicham Akhazzan came to the rescue with a quickfire double to earn his side a win and keep them within two points of the play-offs.

In truth, Akhazzan, who also saw a header come off the bar, had a pretty shoddy game compared to his usual all-action performances, but he got two goals and as a striker that's all that matters. Just ask Michael Owen.

In truth, it was down to assistant boss Richard Brady that the game swayed in the Brickies' favour. He's not yet fit, but there is no substitute for a bit of class and know how, and Brady has both.

He had a hand in Akhazzan's first and also played a through ball into the young striker's path to ensure the

FOOTBALL

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Sittingbourne 2 Chipstead 0

points were staying at Bourne Park.

For all their difficulties going forward, the defensive unit looks strong. Ainsworth and Manners have kept James Campbell out since he picked up a red card against Cray Wanderers last year.

Abbott gave a debut to new signing Ryan Andrews from East Thurrock, who apart for a shaky first half an hour, looked solid enough, while Joe Dowley was his dependable self.

The Brickies will miss Chris Lewington who is to sit out the next three games after his red card picked up at Metropolitan Police, but veteran Steve Williams is to step in and help his old club – again.

Abbott said after the game: "The first half was a waste of time and we were just waiting for the half-time whistle, but in the second half we could have run in four or five.

"We grind out results and if we win all our home games we have a chance."

Brady hopes to build up his fitness but admits it is difficult to play and help run the team at the same time.

He said: "I will need a run of games before you can judge me, but doing all the assisting as manager and coaching – it is impossible to do both."

The Brickies are next in action on Saturday away to second-placed Tooting & Mitcham.

Picture: GOR KUPCO



SOLID DISPLAY: Paul Ainsworth is building a good partnership at the back with young defender Billy Manners which is helping the Brickies close out games

LOCAL FOOTBALL ROUND-UP @ yourswale.co.uk

New signing aims to tempt back fans



ON THE UP: Striker Mike McKenna opened the scoring for the Lilywhites who went on to their fourth win in the last five games

Picture TONY GRAY

FOOTBALL

BY YOURSWALE REPORTER

Croydon 3 Faversham Town 4

FAVERSHAM Town boss Justin Luchford hopes the club's signing of Herne Bay captain Roy Guiver will help improve his squad and ultimately attract a bigger crowd to Salters Lane.

Luchford told Yoursware the signing proves

the club have not written off this season and that he hoped it would improve his side and increase attendances at Salters Lane.

He said: "It was going to be tight to sign him in time for the Hythe game but he is a massive signing for us as he comes with experience of playing in the Ryman Premier and was captain."

"It is a long-term signing for us as he is someone who we feel will help us progress up the league next year."

The Lilywhites also moved to sign striker Marcus Hodges from Hythe Town.

The striker has been added to the squad to provide competition for places.

Luchford now hopes to work on getting Faversham as high up the league as possible in

an attempt to get more fans at the Lane.

The club has the highest attendances in the Kent League, but it is hoped more supporters in the town will be interested in watching the team if they continue to get results on the pitch.

Luchford said: "We want to increase those numbers again, we know there are people that want to come to watch and one or two are starting to come back because results are improving."

Town made it four wins out of five with an excellent away win at Croydon on Saturday. Goals from Mike McKenna, Jimmy Strouts, Wes Hammond and an 84th minute winner from new signing Hodges gave Town all three points.

• **Town were in action against VCD Athletic last night. For a match report and reaction, visit www.yoursware.co.uk.**

Court hit ten to keep pressure on leaders

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

GORE Court produced their best performance of the season to keep up the pressure at the top of Southern Hockey League Division Two.

After beating the previous league leaders Banbury last week, Court knew a win was needed to keep pace with new table toppers, Tulse Hill.

The Sittingbourne side started with blistering efficiency and within two minutes Doug Reed scored the opener and Court were playing some great passing hockey.

Richard Dixon scored from close range after a great run down the right, and followed it up with another goal only seconds later.

Court could not believe their start. It did not stop there, when another swift passing move saw Paul Surridge pass the ball round the goal-keeper for Reed to finish in to an empty net.

Virtually from the re-start, Court broke away and Surridge was put through and rolled the ball into the corner of the net. Court were 5-0 up with only ten minutes played.

HOCKEY

Gore Court 10 - 1 Rover Oxford

They had finished the game in the first ten minutes and understandably relaxed.

They added a further goal from Aaron Glass before half-time, but allowed Rover Oxford to get one back after a fine reverse stick shot from their centre forward.

Court were keen to push on in the second half, but despite creating many chances they seemed to have lost the clinical edge of the first few minutes. However, persistence paid off when Dixon completed his hat-trick, while Glass added another two to grab a hat-trick of his own.

This was a fine performance with Court playing some of their best hockey of the year. With six games to go and the league as tight as it is, next week's trip to Epsom could be pivotal.



TOP OF THE WORLD: Gore Court hit ten goals past Rover Oxford to remain in the promotion hunt

yoursware
SPORT IN BRIEF

Sheppey still in the hunt after Spartans washout

AFC Sheppey have to wait another week for a chance to break into the top three in the Kent County League Division 1 East after their game at Bly Spartans was postponed.

This Saturday, Sheppey will take on struggling Lydd Town away, who are only above the relegation zone by goal difference. Lydd have won two games all season so Sheppey will be confident of a result.

A win for Sheppey could put them just two points behind the league leaders Bly Spartans.

A single point leaves Sittingbourne slipping

THE smallest of margins cost Sittingbourne RFC the win against Guys Hospital as they lost by just a single point in 29-28 defeat.

Sittingbourne have now slipped away from the top three and are fifth in Kent One. A win could have put them ahead of Dartfordians in fourth position.

They will hope to bounce back when they face high-flying Park House who are just a point behind league leaders Old Gravesendians in Kent One.

Supporters asked to quiz the management duo

FANS of Kent League side Faversham Town have the opportunity to question the new management duo of Justin Luchford and Jimmy Strouts.

The football club are planning to organise a question and answer session. Fans are invited to come along and air their views to the managers.

If you would like to attend, register your interest by contacting a club official or call 01795 519900. The date and venue for the session is still to be confirmed.

Your chance to promote your minority sports

DO YOU play an interesting or unusual sport?

Yoursware is looking to feature non-mainstream sports for its sister TV channel, yourkenttv. Last week the KOS sports reporters visited a handball team to try out a new emerging sport in the county. To see them in action view the video clip below.

If you think your club should be covered and would like us to try out your sport, contact the sports team on sports@kosmedia.co.uk and tell us why.

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KOS sports team find out about the emergence of handball in Kent

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